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WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2004

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Bosnia considered for 'lily-pad' deployments

Military seeks base for quick movement to crisis areas Page 7



SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

Carrier care changes with times

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A Navy plane director signals the pilot before the plane is catapulted off the USS Enterprise on Monday in the eastern Atlantic Ocean. The Enterprise and six other Navy carrier strike groups deployed simultaneously as part of Summer Pulse to test the feasibility of having multiple detachments at sea.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Martha Stewart sentencing: Martha Stewart and her former stockbroker, Peter Bacanovic, will be sentenced separately Friday in New York, a clerk for the sentencing judge said Tuesday. Stewart will be sentenced at 10 a.m. and Bacanovic will be sentenced at 2:30 p.m., a clerk for U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum said. Both sentences had previously been scheduled for 10 a.m.

Each defendant is expected to get 10 to 16 months in prison after being convicted of lying to the government about why Stewart sold 3,928 shares of ImClone Systems Inc. stock in late 2001, just before the price plunged.

World

Terror suspects: Sept. 11 suspects Abdelghani Mzoudi and Mounir el Motassadeq will fight an attempt by German authorities to deport them to their native Morocco, their attorneys said Tuesday.

Both men, who were accused as prosecutors of providing logistical support to the Hamburg al-Qaida cell that included suicide hijackers Mohamed Atta, Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah, were served with notice Monday that Hamburg intends to deport them.

EU fiscal rules: Europe's top court took European Union governments to task Tuesday for letting France and Germany off the hook last fall for violating budget rules, but the ruling looked unlikely to change how fiscal discipline is enforced for euro currency countries.

The European Court of Justice's decision broadly supported the European Commission, the Brussels, Belgium-based bureaucracy, which feared its role as fiscal watchdog was being undermined by national capitals jealously guarding control over their pursestrings.

Citing violations of procedure, the court annulled the reprieve finance ministers took it upon themselves to grant France and Germany on Nov. 25.

Accused deserter: Japanese doctors have been dispatched to examine an accused U.S. Army deserter meeting with his Japanese wife in Indonesia, Japan's top government spokesman said Tuesday.

Japanese officials in Indonesia said they were considering sending Charles Jenkins, who has lived in North Korea since 1965, to Japan for medical treatment. They refused to say what prompted the announcement but acknowledged that Jenkins had been taken to a Jakarta hospital Tuesday for a medical examination.

Jenkins' wife, Hitomi Soga, was kidnapped by North Korean agents in 1978 and taken to the communist country. She met Jenkins there and married, and the couple has two daughters.

Soga was permitted to return to Japan in 2002 after a Japan-North Korea summit, but



Chechen unrest: A damaged car in Chechnya's acting president's motorcade is seen in a televised image Tuesday after an explosion hit the motorcade in Grozny, the Chechen capital. A roadside explosive tore through the motorcade, killing a guard, on Tuesday just two months after Chechnya's previous leader was killed by a bomb at a stadium, officials said. Sergei Abramov, who was appointed to lead the Kremlin-backed Chechen government after the May 9 assassination of Akhmad Kadyrov, was not injured.

Jenkins remained behind with his daughters out of fear he would be extradited to the United States to face charges.

Japanese officials arranged a reunion between Soga and her family in Indonesia, which has no extradition treaty with the United States.

Hong Kong democracy movement: Pro-democracy lawmakers on Tuesday accused Hong Kong's leader of "planting a time bomb" in the territory by ignoring people's desires for freedom, in their first question-and-answer session since a massive pro-democracy rally on July 1.

Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa responded by saying he has listened to the people's views but must follow Beijing's instructions. It was Tung's first public showdown with lawmakers since the protest, which organizers said attracted 530,000 people. Police said the crowd was 200,000.

Japanese election: Japanese Cabinet ministers and ruling party officials said Tuesday a weekend electoral setback would not derail Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's reform policies.

Shinzo Abe, the No. 2 official in Koizumi's Liberal Democratic Party, spoke after meeting with senior party leaders to assess the outcome of Sunday's parliamentary polls, in which the opposition Democrats captured the most votes of any single party.

Bali bombings: The failure of U.S. authorities to alert Australia to a terror warning ahead of the deadly Bali bombings that killed 88 Australians was "an oversight,"

the government said Tuesday.

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation said in a statement to Australian Broadcasting Corp. television that it had gleaned intelligence on possible terror attacks aimed at targets such as bars and nightclubs frequented by Westerners in Southeast Asia.

The FBI statement said it alerted nations believed to be targets, but not Australia.

Madrid attacks: Intelligence reports examined Tuesday by Spanish lawmakers investigating Madrid's train bombings indicated that police found evidence pointing to Islamic militants hours earlier than they had announced, members of the panel said.

The closed-door session marked the start of the second week of Parliament's inquiry into the March 11 attack that killed 190 people and injured more than 2,000.

Aid for Kenya: Light rains and the resulting poor harvests means some 1.8 million Kenyans will need food aid over the next six months, according to a new report by U.N., Kenyan and international aid officials. Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki's office warned Tuesday the number could climb to 3 million.

Farmers from the Rift Valley in central Kenya to the country's Indian Ocean coast have experienced "near total" crop failure because rains this year were "much below normal in quantity and were also poorly distributed," said the report by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group, which includes U.N., Kenyan government and international aid groups.

Stories and photo from wire services

Correction

A story in Tuesday's editions about a Kaiserslautern teen receiving his Eagle Scout rank should have said Andrew Reese's father is an Army major.

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Philippines says it will withdraw from Iraq

U.S. unclear if offer to hostage-takers is real or means of buying time

BY PAUL ALEXANDER
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Frantically trying to manage the release of a captive Filipino truck driver with the clock ticking down, the Philippines said Tuesday it would withdraw its tiny peacekeeping force from Iraq as soon as it can.

However, the statement, which followed all-night Cabinet consultations, was unclear as to whether Manila was advancing the pull-out as demanded by the Iraqi militant kidnappers or was sticking by its commitment to bring its 51-strong force home Aug. 20 as planned.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher, reiterating U.S. policy rules out negotiating with hostage-takers, said the American Embassy in Manila was seeking clarification of what the Philippines government means by saying it would withdraw its force as soon as it can. Still, Boucher said this "sends the wrong message" to the hostage-holders.

"We certainly noted the remarks and are disappointed to see remarks like this at a time when Iraq is fighting for stability and peace," Boucher said.

The spokesman said the United States was continuing talks with Philippine authorities.

The confusion may have been deliberate as President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo seeks to maintain her staunch support of the U.S.-led



A group of students form a peace symbol at a Manila square on Tuesday to demand the government pull out its small Philippine contingent in Iraq to save the life of Filipino truck driver Angelo dela Cruz, who was taken hostage by Iraqi insurgents.

war on terrorism while avoiding a possible domestic backlash if Angelo dela Cruz, a 46-year-old father of eight, is beheaded.

"The Philippine government, consistent with its commitment, will withdraw its Philippine humanitarian contingent forces in Iraq as soon as preparations for their return to the Philippines are completed," Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rafael Seguis told a Filipino reporter in Baghdad.

However, when the Arab television station

Al-Jazeera aired his statement, Seguis was quoted as saying the withdrawal would be made "as soon as possible."

Seguis' TV appearance came after the militant group, Iraqi Islamic Army-Kutled bin Al-Waleed Corps, issued a statement at 11 a.m. Monday that suddenly advanced a deadline for Philippine action on the group's demands and gave Manila only three hours to respond. The deadline — the third since dela Cruz was seized July 7 — passed with no indication on his fate.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, 876 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 651 died as a result of hostile action and 225 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 59 deaths: Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 738 U.S. servicemen have died — 542 as a result of hostile action and 196 of nonhostile causes.

■ The latest deaths reported by the military:

No deaths reported.

■ The latest identifications reported by the military:

No identifications reported.

Iraq urges NATO to send pledged training aid now

BY PAUL AMES
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Iraq's foreign minister urgently appealed Tuesday for NATO to quickly deliver on its promised assistance to his country's armed forces, warning that Iraq faced "a race against time" to improve security before next year's elections.

Responding to the plea, NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said the 26 allies would make good on their pledge to launch a mission to train Iraq's fledgling armed forces by the end of the month.

"We need this training you promised us ... as soon as possible," Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told reporters on the first visit to NATO headquarters by an Iraqi official. "We are in a race against time. It's a matter of urgency."

De Hoop Scheffer also said NATO would quickly consider and reply to Zebari's other requests, which included plans for military hardware, help guarding Iraq's borders and protection for a U.N. mission in the country ahead of the elections scheduled for January.

However, de Hoop Scheffer must first overcome divisions within the alliance over the scope of NATO's role in Iraq.

Despite agreement at a summit last month that NATO should train the Iraqi forces, French President Jacques Chirac made clear he did not want to turn into a visible NATO presence on the ground in Iraq.

He suggested the training should be done outside the country or be handled by nations on a bilateral level. U.S. officials say a meaningful training operation must include NATO deployment in Iraq.

Zebari said his government also wants a collective NATO mission inside Iraq.



NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari discussed plans for training Iraq's armed forces on Tuesday at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

The American ambassador to NATO, Nicholas Burns, said he assured Zebari of the United States' solid support for creating a NATO training effort on the ground as soon as possible.

The French Foreign Ministry declined to comment on Zebari's appeal.

De Hoop Scheffer said a compromise was possible, but the current options include training inside Iraq carried out by nations individually or collectively by NATO. Another possibility is helping the Iraqis set up a nationwide military command system and other training programs run outside Iraq.

French opposition to a NATO footprint in Iraq may also make it difficult for the alliance to respond to Zebari's other requests — particularly for NATO troops to provide protection for a U.N. mission during elections set to take place by Jan. 31, 2005.

Despite French reservations, de Hoop Scheffer said NATO had to consider such requests.

"If minister Zebari comes to NATO with a plea or a request ... then the answer cannot be 'excuse me foreign minister but this is not an option we're going to study,'" de Hoop Scheffer told reporters.

Top al-Qaida militant turns self in to Saudis

BY ABDULLAH AL-SHIHRI
The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — A wanted al-Qaida militant said he was fought alongside Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan turned himself in to Saudi diplomats in Iran and was flown to the kingdom Tuesday, the most prominent figure to surrender under an amnesty, the Interior Ministry said.

The militant was identified as Khaled bin Ouda bin Mohammed al-Harby, also known as Abu Suleiman al-Makky. In a videotape released after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden was shown talking about the planning of the attacks with al-Harby, according to the Arab TV channel Al-Arabiya. Al-Harby was believed to have lost his legs fighting in Afghanistan. There was no immediate confirmation by Saudi officials.

Separately, Interior Minister Prince Nayef acknowledged for the first time Tuesday that Saudis had infiltrated neighboring Iraq to fight U.S.-led forces.

"Sure, there are Saudis," Prince Nayef told reporters late Monday of the foreign fighters detained in Iraq. "But the number, and how they got in to Iraq is not available to us now."

Al-Harby, who fought with bin Laden against the Russians in Af-

ghanistan about 20 years ago, was shown on state television being carried off a Saudi Airlines plane after arriving in Riyadh. He was pushed in a wheelchair through the airport and was wearing traditional white robes and Arab head-dresses.

In a statement, the Interior Ministry said al-Harby contacted the Saudi Embassy in Tehran from the Iranian-Afghan border, where he was stranded. It was not disclosed what al-Harby was wanted for, and his name does not appear on the list of the kingdom's 26-most wanted militants.

"Thank God, thank God ... I called the embassy and we were very well-received," al-Harby told Saudi TV in the airport terminal. "I have come obeying God, and obeying the (kingdom's) rulers."

He is the third man to take advantage of the amnesty that King Fahd offered militants on June 23. The amnesty, lasting for one month, allows militants to surrender lives of those militants who surrender.

The two militants who have already surrendered in response to the amnesty include Othman Hadi Al Maqbool al-Amri, No. 21 on the most-wanted list.

Al-Harby described his amnesty as a "general offer" and urged other militants to take advantage of it.

Pakistan's Qazi welcomed as new U.N. envoy to Iraq

BY MUNIR AHMAD

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan on Tuesday welcomed the selection of its ambassador to the United States by Secretary-General Kofi Annan as the new U.N. envoy to Iraq, saying it was a tribute to the man's professionalism.

"We welcome Ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi's appointment as special representative of the U.N. secretary-general in Iraq," Masood Khan, spokesman for Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, said.

He said Qazi, a career diplomat who has served in key posts around the world, has been given a "challenging assignment."

"This is a very important assignment entailing heavy responsibilities," and "we wish him well in his new job," Khan said.

Khan's comments came a day after the United Nations announced that Annan had selected Qazi to be the top U.N. envoy to Iraq, based in Baghdad.

U.N. associate spokeswoman Marie Okabe said Monday that Qazi was chosen from a short list of three "highly qualified" candidates after extensive

consultations. Other contenders were former Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haidar and former Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan, she said. Like Qazi, they are Muslims.

Qazi, 67, will replace top U.N. envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello, who was one of 22 people killed in the Aug. 19, 2003, bombing at U.N. headquarters in Baghdad.

On Tuesday, Khan said Qazi has accepted the new position, but he would not say when he would travel to Iraq. Okabe said Qazi must first be released from his current duties in Washington.

Qazi has been ambassador to the United States since September 2002. He previously served as Pakistan's top envoy to India in 1997-2002, to China in 1994-1997, Russia in 1991-1994, East Germany in 1990-1991 and Syria in 1986-1988.

Qazi late Monday told Pakistan's Geo television that his top priority would be to serve the people of Iraq.

"I think this new assignment is an honor for me and my country," he said.

Pakistan is a key ally of the United States in its war on terrorism. But it has been less supportive of the war in Iraq.



Ashraf Jehangir Qazi waves to the cameras at the New Delhi airport, India, in May. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has selected Qazi, Pakistan's ambassador to Washington, for the job of U.N. envoy to Iraq.

Blair facing judgment on Iraq prewar intelligence

BY ED JOHNSON

The Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair, facing a potentially damaging report on the British intelligence that backed his decision to go to war in Iraq, said Tuesday that he felt "very much as I did 18 months ago" and believed the world was safer with Saddam Hussein out of power.

Blair and senior government officials got an early look Tuesday at an official inquiry into the quality of prewar British intelligence on Iraqi weapons programs. The report will be published Wednesday.

Asked at a news conference whether he believed he had been given "duff intelligence" before the war, Blair said: "I'm afraid I don't accept that at all."

But Blair, speaking at a joint news conference with Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, offered no comment on the new report from Lord Butler, a retired senior civil servant. "You'll have to wait," he said.

"I think it is very difficult to look at Iraq today, without Saddam, and say we would be better off, the world would be safer, if Saddam was still in charge of Iraq," Blair said, repeating his oft-stated position.

He said he hoped people would not "disrespect those of us who came to the view, and



Blair

menhly cautious."

Last week, a U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee inquiry concluded that most of the Central Intelligence Agency's claims on Saddam Hussein's alleged arsenal were overstated or unsupported.

According to reports, Butler is expected to censure John Scarlett, chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, who signed off on the dossier. ITV news, citing unidentified sources, added that that Butler was not looking for a scapegoat, and would say that intelligence failures were collective.

Blair's office said Tuesday the prime minister had full confidence in Scarlett, who has been chosen to become the next head of Britain's foreign spy agency, MI6.

hold the view now that, with the history of Saddam and what he did, not just to his own country but the wider world, we are better safer, more secure without him in office."

The transfer of sovereignty in Iraq last month had brought some improvement, he asserted, but it was "far too early to be anything other than im-

Red Cross fears U.S. is holding terror suspects in secret sites

BY NAOMI KOPPEL

The Associated Press

GENEVA — The International Red Cross said Tuesday that it fears U.S. officials are holding terror suspects secretly in locations across the world.

The Geneva Conventions on the conduct of warfare require the United States to give the Red Cross access to prisoners of war and other detainees.

"We have access to people detained by the United States in Guantanamo Bay, Afghanistan and Iraq, but in our understanding there are people that are detained outside these places for which we haven't received notification or access," said Antonella Notari, a spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The United States says it is cooperating with the organization and has allowed Red Cross delegates access to thousands of prisoners, including former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

But Notari said some suspects reported as arrested by the FBI on its Web site, or identified in media reports, are unaccounted for.

"Some of these people who have been reported to be arrested never

showed up in any of the places of detention run by the U.S. where we visit," Notari said.

She said she had read media reports that some people are being held at Diego Garcia, a British-held island in the Indian Ocean used as a strategic military base by the United States, but the ICRC has not been notified of any prisoners there.

"We just simply have absolutely no confirmation of this in any formal way," she said.

The U.S. government has not officially responded to a Red Cross demand for notification of all detainees, including those held in undisclosed locations, she said.

That request was made by ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger in January during a visit to Washington that featured meetings with Secretary of State Colin Powell, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. An Army report on the abuses at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison found that military police there "routinely held persons brought to them by Other Government Agencies without accounting for them, knowing their identities, or even the reason for their detention."

Gitmo detainees informed of rights to use U.S. courts

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials have issued a document notifying terrorism suspects held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, that they may use American courts to contest their detention, the Pentagon said.

The 594 detainees also were informed, in the same one-page document, issued Monday, that they would be allowed to appear before a military panel to challenge their status as "enemy combatants."

That designation, the Bush administration says, gives it the power to hold the detainees indefinitely without access to lawyers.

A process for panels of military officers to consider whether detainees are properly held as "enemy combatants" was developed after a June 28 Supreme Court decision that allows detainees to challenge their imprisonment in federal courts.

The notice given to detainees Monday does not mention the Su-

preme Court but states that U.S. courts "have jurisdiction to consider petitions brought by enemy combatants held at this facility that challenge the legality of their detention."

It said the detainees will be notified in the near future of procedures available "should you seek to challenge your detention in U.S. courts." Before the Supreme Court ruling, the Bush administration's position was that the detainees had no right to use courts of

the United States or anywhere else.

The notice was in 17 languages, provided to each prisoner in his native tongue.

Regardless whether a detainee should choose to go to court, he may have his status as an enemy combatant reviewed by a military panel at Guantanamo Bay. Navy Secretary Gordon England, overseeing the review process, said Friday he hopes to complete the status reviews within four months.

If a panel, which the Pentagon calls a Combatant Status Review Tribunal, should determine that a detainee is not an enemy combatant, he would be set free, England said.

The next step in the review process is for detainees to be assigned so-called personal representatives, who will be military officers but not lawyers. The representative would be allowed to assist a detainee in presenting his case and be present during the proceedings.

U.S. operation to protect Afghan election

Barno says thousands of troops to provide security during vote

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. military has launched a new operation in Afghanistan involving thousands of troops to provide security during upcoming presidential elections, the top American commander said Tuesday.

The operation, named Lightning Resolve, is "kicking off as we speak," Lt. Gen. David Barno said in an interview at his headquarters in the Afghan capital.

He said the operation contains enough "offensive punch" to keep militants off-balance and would include targeted, intelligence-driven raids. He gave no specifics.

A 2,000-strong Marine force, which has hammered Taliban mil-

itants in a southern stronghold since it arrived in March, is in the process of leaving the country, Barno said.

The remaining force of 17,000 troops will intensify its cooperation with the United Nations, which is helping to organize the Oct. 7 presidential poll, seen as a key step on this war-shattered country's path to recovery.

The United Nations has helped register some 7 million voters despite a string of attacks that have raised fears security will not be adequate to ensure a fair and free vote.

"We'll be shifting our efforts to helping to build the required security going into the election itself," Barno said. "The specifics of that plan are still being worked out."



Lt. Gen. David Barno, U.S. commander in Afghanistan, explains Lightning Resolve, a new military operation involving thousands of troops aimed at protecting Afghanistan's landmark presidential election, on Tuesday. The operation is "kicking off as we speak," Barno said.

U.S. forces are expected to provide a broad security blanket across the south and east during the election, leaving Afghan po-

lice and soldiers to protect polling stations.

NATO is expected to bulk up its 6,500-strong peacekeeping force

focused on Kabul and fan out across the relatively peaceful north in the run-up to the vote.

Incident-free elections would reflect well on the U.S. military and deflect criticism that it has failed to capture Osama bin Laden or Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar. Barno said the U.S.-led coalition had forces working exclusively on tracking down top fugitives. But he said he had no firm intelligence on where.

There have been reports from Washington that bin Laden and his top aide, Ayman al-Zawahiri, might be planning major new al-Qaida attacks to disrupt the upcoming U.S. elections. But Barno said he had no knowledge of the men's whereabouts or what they might be up to.

"Those are, I think, the most difficult targets we have over here," Barno said. "Because of the lack of information we have on them, I think the inference is that they are well-protected."

Patriotic gift from the combat zone

Flags ride with pilots then get sent home to loved ones

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Burt is revving up the engines on his UH-60 Black Hawk, prepping his helicopter for an upcoming mission off the dusty flight line at Bagram Airfield.

As the engines roar, a crew chief hands him a U.S. flag and a T-shirt. Burt, a 38-year-old pilot assigned to the 25th Infantry Division, wedges the flag brand-new and still in its box — onto the dashboard above the flight controls and stuffs the shirt into the light bag next to his feet.

Call them combat zone conversation pieces or patriotic mementos from the front lines of the war on terror, they are all part of a campaign among U.S. fliers in the region designed to help troops connect with folks back home in ways that simple post cards and e-mails never could.

The T-shirt, says the crew chief, is for a sailor working on the base who wants to send something special to his mom. As with a concert shirt signed by the stars of the show, after the flight Burt will scrawl the date of the mission, helicopter number and where they flew onto the shirt.

Meanwhile, the flag will be among thousands sent to friends, family, schools, department stores, hometown bars, police stations, colleges, and anywhere else troops want to offer a patriotic reminder of what they're doing in Afghanistan. And why they're here.

Most units print out a personalized certificate to accompany the flag, often with a picture of the Stars and Stripes held by the crew in front of the aircraft after the mission.

A typical certificate reads:

"In remembrance of the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, this flag bears witness to the destruction of terrorist forces threatening the freedom of the United States of America and the world during Operation Enduring Freedom."

"We're flying these flags in the face of the enemy," said Burt. "That's a pretty



JON R. ANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

A helicopter crew at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan prepares to fly a flag "in the face the enemy" as a gift for folks back home. The flag is among thousands sent anywhere troops want to offer a patriotic reminder of what they're doing in Afghanistan.

cool gift. Not everyone can say their flag has seen combat."

Pilots say they're glad to help out. "I think it's an honor to fly the flag for someone back home," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ryan Nowaczak, a medical evacuation pilot at Bagram.

"We like doing it," said Maj. Norm Camp, an Air Force A-10 pilot who flew three flags during missions here on the July 4. "It's not a problem at all for us."

It's hard to say how long the flag-flying campaign has been going on. Lt. Col. John Lynch, executive officer of Task Force Wings, which oversees much of the aircraft on the Bagram flight line, said it's becoming increasingly popular.

The 10th Mountain Division, which the 25th ID replaced this spring, "was doing it when we got here and we just carried on the tradition. I think just about everyone is doing it now," said Lynch. "It's a good way to help people connect with what's going on over here."

Senior Airman Karson Beaulieu said his unit was sending up flags in A-10 Thunderbolt cockpits when they were deployed to Saudi Arabia in 2002 and then sending

them back to friends and family as presents.

"We did a few back then, but now it's much more popular," said Beaulieu, with the 355th Fighter Squadron from Eielson, Alaska, now deployed to Afghanistan.

"We've sent up at least 500 in the three months that we've been here."

Requests have become so frequent, he said, they've had to set up a special sign-up sheet.

"They can drop off four flags at a time and pick from 14 different certificates," said Beaulieu. "When we first got here it only took a few days to get them back, but now we've got so many it's usually more like a week."

The practice has become so popular lately that local PXs at bases in Afghanistan have had a hard time keeping flags in stock. Usually delivered by the truckload, shipments are typically sold out within days.

"It's definitely an unusual gift," said Beaulieu, "it's not something you can just run down to Wal-Mart and get."

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at: andersonj@mail.strips.esd.mil

Advocates: Nearly 200 reported sex assaults

BY JON SÄRCHÉ
The Associated Press

DENVER — Nearly 200 women serving in the Middle East say they have been sexually assaulted by fellow servicemembers in the past 21 months, a victims' advocacy group said Monday as it criticized the U.S. military for falling short in addressing the problem.

From October 2002 through June, the Miles Foundation received 187 reports from the region — and fewer than half had been reported to military authorities, said Christine Hansen, executive director of the Connecticut-based group.

During the same period, the Pentagon has received 112 reports, Hansen said during the annual conference of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

In February, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld ordered an investigation into the treatment of servicewomen in the Gulf war zone who report sexual assaults by their male comrades. A defense official said the memo came in response to media reports about sexual assaults in the region, including a Jan. 25 story by The Denver Post.

According to defense officials, some 60,000 military women served within the region managed by U.S. Central Command, which includes Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan, between October 2002 and November 2003. Most were in Iraq and Kuwait.

The Pentagon released a report in May acknowledging problems in how the military handles assault allegations. The task force said victims were treated inconsistently and too often suffered from a lack of support from commanders, criminal investigators and doctors.

The foundation, which first raised concerns in press reports about a spate of assaults on women serving in Iraq and Kuwait, has criticized the Pentagon with failing to take appropriate steps to address the problem.



Sgt. Abubakar Senge of Portland, Ore., inspects a secondary school Friday. The school is one of 60 long-neglected and looted schools that the civil affairs soldier assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Battalion is attempting to rebuild. The Army has assigned a civil affairs team to almost every battalion to take charge of reconstruction projects and set up neighborhood councils to get Iraq back to normal.

Assignment: Normalcy in Iraq

BY CHRIS TOMLINSON
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Sgt. Abubakar Senge walks through the secondary school with his rifle slung across his chest, his helmet hanging off his arm and a notebook in his hand, inspecting the work he hired an Iraqi builder to perform. Checking every room, he wants to make sure everything is perfect before the students return at the end of August.

"I'm not that much older than the guys going to school, so I know how they feel," said the 21-year-old college student from Portland, Ore.

A civil affairs soldier in the U.S. Army Reserve, Senge is responsible for rehabilitating 60 long-neglected and looted schools in a west Baghdad neighborhood.

The Army has assigned a civil affairs team to almost every battalion to take charge of reconstruction projects and set up neighborhood councils to get Iraq back to normal. All civil affairs soldiers are reservists and excluded from combat operations.

"My job is not to go out there and hunt down people. [The civil affairs'] job is to make the community better," Senge said.

Senge's team is assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Battalion, which is responsible for Baghdad's Mansour district. The battalion has more than 170 projects worth about \$7.5 million.

U.S. commanders have found they spend more time getting local councils in place, creating a new bureaucracy and putting Iraqis back to work than they do fighting insurgents. But just as the transfer of sovereignty on June 28 gave Iraqis greater responsibility for security, it also gives local leaders more responsibility for reconstruction.

"Before they were used to getting directions from above, now they have the authority themselves," Maj. Harry Klein, Senge's team leader, said. "The Iraqis need to start initiating projects on their own."

Klein acknowledges, though, that the new government isn't

ready to take over completely, and civil affairs teams will continue to play an important role.

Senge has learned how to spot shortcuts taken by Iraqi contractors and gives every building a close inspection, something the civil engineering student said will help him after he graduates.

Other team members manage sewer projects, soccer fields, kerosene distribution centers and gasoline stations. Klein said at one station his team was trying to arrange for an onsite convenience store.

The soldiers have also had to deal with the complexities of Iraqi society where elected leaders informally share power with tribal and religious leaders. Some managers in the new government's ministries act aloof when dealing with U.S. soldiers.

Despite the frustrations, Senge and other soldiers in his team feel a sense of accomplishment.

"The real satisfaction will come when the students go back to school and I hope I can see their reactions when they go to an almost new school," he said.

Some want Iraqi army to return

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Iraq's new leader wants to call some of its old army back to duty to help restore peace in his war-torn land.

Disbanding that defeated force 13 months ago was a mistake made in Washington, says a U.S. Army colonel who held a pivotal role in Baghdad at the time.

"It was because ideology ruled where reality should have," Col. Paul F. Hughes, who was strategic policy director for the U.S. occupation authority, said of last year's decision.

Other key players said the order came not from then-Iraqi administrator L. Paul Bremer, as believed, but from a top-level civilian official in the Defense Department in Washington, and that it was done without consulting U.S. military chiefs.

With no Iraqi security forces on hand, the U.S. military was left almost alone to confront an Iraqi insurgency and crime wave that built through 2003 — fed in part by armed soldiers of the disbanded army.

"Anyone who ever worked in any country after a losing war knows you have to do something with the old soldiers," Hughes said. "Otherwise, they're out of work and they will do what people do who know how to use guns do."

Lyad Allawi, Iraq's interim prime minister, says he hopes to

reconstitute three or four divisions of the old army — up to 40,000 troops, about 10 percent of the huge force maintained under the ousted Baathist government of Saddam Hussein.

Allawi first spoke out against the U.S. decision last October, as a member of Iraq's governing council. By May, before taking over as interim prime minister, he said, "We need an army, full stop."

His approval last week of legislation permitting martial law and military governors makes an army recall "imperative," said Ray Salvatore Jennings, an expert in postwar transitions with the government-financed U.S. Institute of Peace.

Last August, the U.S. command in Iraq began training a "New Iraqi Army" of light infantry, but the slow-paced program has produced only an estimated 7,000 troops, far short of the 40,000-member military the Americans once projected for October 2004.

Meanwhile, the first trained battalion fell apart when more than one-third of the men deserted, and the 2nd Battalion refused to fight alongside U.S. Marines in an insurance battle in the city of Fallujah this April.

The U.S. command says other newly organized security forces, including police and a lightly armed national guard, are more than 200,000 strong. But they are short on equipment and training.

Translator sees changing attitudes in growing graffiti scene

BY AAMER MADHAN
Chicago Tribune

BAGHDAD — On the brick wall of the parking lot adjacent to one of the largest mosques in the city, anonymous observers of modern-day Iraq have spray-painted their commentary in black and red.

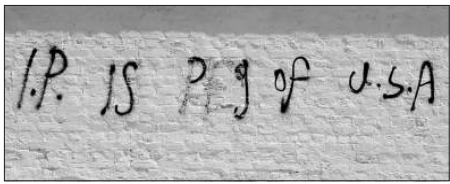
"Where is the mustache of Saddam?" asked one writer, who was insulting the deposed leader by using an Iraqi expression for challenging one's manhood.

Another states that, "the killing of Americans is halal," or acceptable under Islamic law. And a third writer scrawled in English that the "USA Rocks!"

Under the former regime, tagging a wall with a controversial political message was punishable by a long jail sentence and, sometimes, execution.

The walls of post-Saddam Hussein Baghdad, however, have become a canvas for political dialogue and self-expression.

"In Saddam's time, maybe occasionally you would see slogans written on the wall that were in his favor," said Amir Nayef Toma al-Sayegh, 52, a retired Iraqi army radar operator who has been documenting



CHICAGO TRIBUNE/KRT

Putting aside his work translating automobile repair manuals into Arabic, Amir Nayef Toma al-Sayegh spends his days documenting the graffiti now appearing on the walls of Baghdad.

graffiti in Baghdad since shortly after the invasion last year. "This graffiti we see now is pure expression. It is written in the darkness of night. It is straight from the heart to the wall."

Twice a week, al-Sayegh sets out on foot with a pen and journal to find new graffiti. So far, he has documented more than 1,700 messages scrawled on walls, highway un-

derpasses, buses and other surfaces.

"This is my obsession," said al-Sayegh, who earns his living translating automobile repair manuals from English to Arabic for Iraqi mechanics.

Al-Sayegh spends just about every afternoon translating the mostly Arabic graffiti into English in tattered journals, whose contents he hopes to someday publish.

The book he envisions is inspired by the "Chicken Soup" series popular in the United States.

The idea of documenting Baghdad's graffiti was sparked by a memory of a magazine article al-Sayegh read more than 15 years ago about a British woman who documented the graffiti in Tehran, Iran, during the Iranian Revolution.

The Iraqi graffiti in Baghdad contends, offers a tableau of the progression of opinion in the country in the 15 months since the invasion.

His first entry in his journal, which came days after the fall of Baghdad, was a fairly simple and optimistic scrawling signed by the Iraq Communist Party: "Free Country and Happy People."

Throughout the various trials and tribulations of the American occupation, al-Sayegh said the writing on the walls has reflected the mood of the Iraqi people, from jubilation over the capture of Saddam to disgust with the American occupation following the U.S. military prison abuse scandal at Abu Ghraib.

"I am now waiting to see what people will write about Saddam Hussein's trial," he said.

Fate of Eagle Base debated as Bosnia handover nears

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military is considering Eagle Base in Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, for a "lily-pad" facility from which the military could launch forces for worldwide contingencies, a military leader said.

Army Maj. Gen. James Darden, deputy director for plans and policy at U.S. European Command, told members of Congress on Monday that planners are deliberating whether to keep the key air base after NATO turns over peacekeeping missions to the European Union at year's end, possibly staging 150 troops and a half-dozen helicopters.

"Our strategy presently calls for a contingency of U.S. military personnel to help man the future NATO headquarters at Camp Butmir in Sarajevo. And although a final decision has not been made, we are also investigating the usefulness of maintaining a small U.S. presence at Eagle Base," Darden said.

The United States now has about 1,400 troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, with about 850 at Eagle Base.

U.S. military leaders in Europe are seeking out forward expeditionary bases, sometimes called "lily-pads," in Eastern Europe and Africa for training purposes and to be well-placed for contingency operations.

"Europe is the center of gravity, but the center of action is to the east and south," Darden said, adding the command wants locations in Africa and closer to the Middle East that give U.S. forces "unfettered access when crisis" arises.

At the NATO summit in Istanbul during the last week of June, leaders ended NATO's nine-year peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and transferred the mission to the EU.

If the U.S. military keeps Eagle Base, a former Yugoslavian air base, the facility could be shared with EU forces, and "if necessary, a surge force of one battalion could easily be brought into Eagle Base for any future contingency," Darden said.

Yet, as military and diplomatic officials updated members of the House Armed Services Committee on the U.S. mission in Bosnia, they included information of increasing terrorist activity there,

including information that Bosnian authorities recently closed down and froze assets of eight Islamic nongovernmental agencies because of ties to al-Qaida. That information prompted lawmakers to question whether it is wise for a U.S.-force reduction in the midst of the war on terrorism.

But after nine years of U.S. presence in the country, "I think that the conditions are right, now, to downsize," said Army Maj. Gen. Virgil Packett II, commander of the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

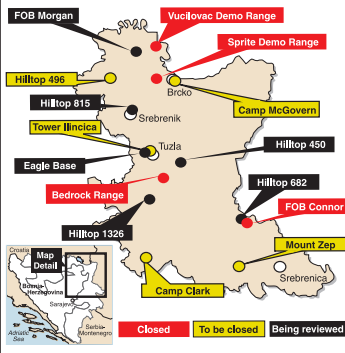
EUCOM, the U.S. Embassy and other offices will continue to work with Bosnian military and law enforcement agencies to counter the terrorist activity, Darden said.

The 1995 Dayton Peace Accords, named because it was started at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, ended the war and split the country in two, the Republika Srpska and the Muslim-Croat Federation.

Key to a successful mission is capturing those indicted for war crimes, primarily Radovan Karadzic, Ratko Mladic and Ante Gotovina, who "remain a significant obstacle to creating the con-

Bases tapped for closure

A review of U.S. military forces around the world continues, but at a House Armed Services Committee hearing Monday, several sites under U.S. control in Bosnia-Herzegovina have been tapped for closure.



Source: European Command

CHRISTOPHER SIX/Stars and Stripes

ditions in which the country can develop and prosper," Packett said.

Lessons from the nine-year mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which lasted longer than military planners originally predicted, can

be used as the U.S. negotiates a postconflict environment in Iraq and Afghanistan, notably forming a central government from multiple ethnicities, Darden said.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

What's your Scene?

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Care of carriers changes with new fleet plan

Sailors who maintain ships list pros, cons of rapid deployment

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USS ENTERPRISE — Manuals on board are on paper, not compact disc. And when some parts on this ship break, they are so outdated that they have to be custom-made.

But at 42 years old — past its prime by warship standards — the USS Enterprise is still going strong.

The Navy needs the aircraft carrier for at least another decade, but how it will be used in its final years will be dramatically different from when it was commissioned in 1958. Under the Navy's new Fleet Response Plan, carriers must be ready to go anywhere in the world on a moment's notice.

The quick and relatively short deployments will require sailors and their families to be more flexible, but the new concept also will change the way crews maintain their warships.

How will an aging ship such as the Enterprise hold up under shorter maintenance periods and the swift deployments?

Chief Petty Officer Emmett Lee Hart, who takes care of the diesel engines, the hot water heaters, and the laundry and galley equipment aboard the Enterprise, said it might run better.

"From my experience being on ships, ships were meant to be out to sea and they're meant to steam," Hart said. "Once she

heats up, she goes.... The best thing for an old ship like this is to keep it running."

The first-of-its-kind Summer Pulse '04 exercise is testing whether he is right. The Navy dispatched seven carrier strike groups across the globe in June in what is a practice run of the Navy's new strategy.

Typically, carriers used to head to sea for six months. Then, the ships would go into the yards for upgrades and repairs. Some

ships could spend as long as two years out of commission so that workers could overhaul it.

Under the new plan, carriers will still go on six-month deployments. But they also must be ready to respond to a major crisis



A U.S. sailor rests between aircraft launches aboard the Enterprise on Monday.



A Navy Prowler flies away from the Enterprise flight deck to make another attempt to land on Monday in the eastern Atlantic Ocean. The Enterprise is one of seven carrier groups participating in Summer Pulse '04, one of the largest naval exercises since the Cold War.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Navy plane director aboard the USS Enterprise signals to the pilot of an F/A-18 Hornet as the carrier cruises through the eastern Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Morocco on Tuesday.

between those scheduled sea tours. To do that, maintenance overhauls will be spread out into smaller chunks and much of the work will be done in port rather than in the shipyard.

Rear Adm. Barry McCullough, commander of the Enterprise strike group, said the new plan makes sense.

"The ship is usually in better material condition when it comes home than it was when it left," McCullough said. "And we were putting the ships right back in the shipyard and tearing 'em up, for what reason most of us couldn't figure out other than that's the way we always did it."

"So, when we looked at it we said, 'We don't need to bring the ship home and tear it up. Maybe we only need to put it in the shipyard for six or nine weeks because there's always things that need to be maintained or fixed.'"

The Enterprise — the Navy's first nuclear-powered carrier —

is nearing the end of its two-month deployment aimed at testing the Navy's ability to launch strike groups any place in the world in 30 days.

The Enterprise and Harry S. Truman strike groups are in the eastern Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Morocco working with naval forces from nine allied countries, while other carriers conduct operations in such places as the Persian Gulf and the Pacific Ocean.

Capt. Rick Neidlinger, commander of the Enterprise, said the ship is in great shape, but the hurried deployment has taught crewmembers some lessons on maintenance.

"When you have to be ready to go all of the time, you can't really tear into big jobs," he said.

Lt Cmdr. Bill Chambers, the Enterprise's maintenance officer, said there are advantages and disadvantages to the new plan when it comes to the upkeep of a ship.

The drawback is that it requires maintainers to prioritize their jobs and it is labor intensive, he said. The benefit is that the new way is more efficient.

"It looks like a big effort on the crew, which is mentally planning and formulating ideas," said Chambers, who has 26 years in the Navy. "But as far as when the actual product is out, it's a better deal."

However, Hart, who has 24 years of service, said crews really won't know the effects of the new plan until ships go into the yards for another overhaul. Many sailors are learning as they go.

"Does it eventually catch up with you?" he said. "Will it catch up with you three years from now?"

"Who knows? This is one of those things where we'll just have to wait and see."

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.strips.esd.mil

1st ID GI gets jail time

Specialist stole nearly \$68,000 from Iraqi bank

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

A 1st Infantry Division soldier will spend the next two years in jail after pleading guilty to stealing nearly \$68,000 from an Iraqi bank he was guarding.

At his court-martial Monday in Würzburg, Germany, Spc. Donald E. Gentry Jr. was convicted of larceny, knowingly concealing property, conspiracy and making false statements.

Gentry, of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, also was reduced to E-1, ordered to forfeit all pay and allowances, and given a bad-conduct discharge.

According to court documents provided by the 1st ID, Gentry stole \$67,729 from the Rasheed Bank while on guard duty during deployment to Kirkuk, Iraq, on Aug. 18, 2003.

After taking the money, he divided it up and conspired to hide it with three other soldiers. He also mailed some back to the States and to Germany. He said he also burned some of it to keep from getting caught.

Part of the duties of the infantry troops was to guard the U.S. currency at the Iraqi bank in Kirkuk.

One day, one of the bank tellers forgot to secure her money box after leaving work, according to court documents.

Another soldier, Spc. Fabian Zamora, first

noticed the money was left unsecured and jumped over the teller's booth to take it and show it to Gentry, as well as two other troops, Spc. James Caldwell and Spc. Christopher Knight, according to the documents.

All four soldiers talked about how the money would make their lives better, but they agreed that keeping the money was not worth the risk, so Zamora put it back, according to the court documents.

Later that night, however, Gentry went back to see if the box was still there. Each of the other soldiers took about \$300, and Gentry kept the remaining \$66,829 for himself, the documents stated.

After taking the cash, Gentry and Caldwell tried to conceal the crime by breaking a wooden box that held the money and tossing the box into a junkyard behind the bank.

An Iraqi boy later brought pieces of the broken box back to the bank. The box was tested by the Criminal Investigation Command, and Gentry's fingerprint was found on it, the court documents stated.

Gentry, despite knowing he took the money, still thoroughly searched local Iraqi homes along with other troops to help locate the missing money before CID found his fingerprint on the money box.

Caldwell, Knight and Zamora are pending courts-martial, according to the legal office, but no details have been released on their cases.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigo@mail.strips.esd.mil

ASGs seeking talented performers

BY LISA HORN

Stars and Stripes

Area support groups are seeking performers to represent their areas at the U.S. Army Europe Battle of Bands and Stars of Tomorrow contests in Illiesheim, Germany, Aug. 21-22.

Each ASG may send two groups to the USAREUR competition and one performer for each of the Stars of Tomorrow's nine categories.

At least half of a band's members must be active-duty soldiers and the rest of the band must be U.S. identification card holders over the age of 18.

Winners of the USAREUR competition will be eligible to compete at the All-Army Battle of Bands Dec. 6-14 at Fort Belvoir, Va. Travel to the contest will be funded by the Army Entertainment Division.

The Stars of Tomorrow contest is open to all U.S. ID card holders. The categories include: male vocal solo, female vocal solo, vocal duo, vocal trio, self-accompanied; vocal group; instrumental solo, instrumental group; specialty solo; and specialty group.

Depending on the number of interested performers, ASGs may host qualifying contests to determine who will advance to the USAREUR competition. For more information, contact:

■ 6th ASG, Stuttgart, Germany — Alan Buxkemper, DSN 421-2796 or civilian 0711-7292

■ 22nd ASG, Vicenza, Italy — Barry Robinson, DSN 634-7281 or civilian 0444-51-7281

■ 6th ASG, Heidelberg, Germany — Geoffrey Larkin, DSN 373-7841 or civilian 06221-17-7841


■ 80th ASG, Chièvres, Belgium — Harry Geesaman, DSN 361-5589 or civilian 06827-5589

■ 98th ASG, Würzburg, Germany — Jack Austin, DSN 469-8647 or civilian 0951-300-8647

■ 10th ASG, Hanau, Germany — William Hauserman, DSN 322-8031 or civilian 06181-88-8031

The 10th ASG in Grafenwöhr, Germany, has already hosted its qualifying contest; however, interested performers may still be considered. Contact Randy Mayer at DSN 475-7137 or civilian 09641-83-7137 for details.

E-mail Lisa Horn at: horn@mail.strips.esd.mil



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RICHARD SCHNEIDER/Courtesy of the NARA

Tom Fortunato of National Archives and Records Administration assists a Vietnam veteran during researcher registration at the National Archives at College Park, Md. A new policy will allow the public access to records 62 years after a servicemember's official discharge or separation.

National Archives to offer public access to servicemembers' files

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — U.S. government officials have decided to preserve forever the personnel files of every military member since 1885, and to allow public access to such records 62 years after official discharge or separation.

An agreement designating these files as permanent records was signed Thursday by Archivist of the United States John Carlin and David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The National Archives and Records Administration will maintain the records forever, according to Greg Pomtner, assistant for operations at the NARA's Office of Regional Records Services.

Protecting personnel files is crucial because they contain the legal documents veterans and their families need in order to claim entitlements that may have accrued from military service, Pomtner said in a telephone interview Monday from NARA's Suit-

land, Md., headquarters.

Before the agreement was signed, the U.S. government would release only basic information, such as dates of service. Only the member himself, if alive, or next-of-kin if the member was dead, had access to the entire file, Pomtner said.

Under the new policy, the public will have access to records 62 years after a servicemember's official discharge or separation — "a wealth of information" that will appeal to a variety of individuals, Pomtner said.

After a six-month survey of records requests, archivists found that the nature of requests moved from administrative to historical between 56 years and 62 years after the servicemember's separation, and went with the higher number to be safe.

People searching for genealogical data will find that the records "give you a tremendous amount of family history," Pomtner said.

Personnel files contain such things as medical information, performance reports and disciplinary actions, as well as birth,

marriage and death records, and adoption records and visas.

Academics and other researchers will be able to use the records to reconstruct all sorts of information, such as the demographic composition of a specific military unit and how it has changed over time, Pomtner said.

But if a servicemember is still alive after 62 years, the Privacy Act of 1974 allows NAR officials to redact, or black out, certain information, such as Social Security numbers, Pomtner said.

"If we have any indication that person is alive, we'll be very careful what's released ... to ensure that there's no unwarranted invasion of a person's privacy," Pomtner said.

It will take at least a decade for government archivists to transfer all 56 million eligible records to the public domain.

That's because before 1960, DOD did not necessarily file its personnel records by date of discharge, requiring archivists to sort through the jackets one-by-one to discern whether they meet the 62-year age requirement, Pomtner said.

The first major block of files — nearly 1 million records for sailors and Marines that date back to World War I — will be released this fall, Pomtner said.

To learn how to search records maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration, including records that have been archived electronically, go to: www.archives.gov

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

U.S. considering Poland as site for missile defense

BY VANESSA GERA
The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — The United States has signaled interest in setting up a site in Poland as part of its proposed missile defense system, but Warsaw is awaiting a formal proposal from Washington before deciding whether to allow such a facility on its soil, a government spokesman said Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Boguslaw Majewski said Washington informally broached the issue first late last year with Polish officials, but only in "very general" terms.

"Americans have only outlined ideas that they will locate in several parts of the world — and they are also thinking about central Europe — elements of the potential missile defense shield," Majewski said. "There is nothing concrete on the table at the time."

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Jim Bond, also confirmed that Poland and the United States have talked about potentially putting "anti-missile defense" sites in Poland, but stressed that "nothing has been decided."

Bond said he had no further details of the talks.

A system to defend against ballistic missiles is an essential part

of President Bush's national security policy.

Though it has not been as politically divisive as President Ronald Reagan's more elaborate "Star Wars" program, Democrats complain the administration is spending billions to deploy interceptors without conducting adequate tests to see if they will even work.

It was not clear whether the United States was interested in Poland as a site for ground-based interceptor missiles or for something related, like a radar installation.

While Poland, a staunch U.S. ally and a coalition partner in Iraq, in principle favors hosting a U.S. missile defense site, it will not agree to any proposal that could threaten regional stability, Majewski said.

"As much as we are interested in any form of military cooperation that will bring additional security and stability both to Poland and to the region as a whole, in this concrete case we cannot say more than let's wait and see what will be proposed," Majewski said.

Poland will not accept any proposal that would "heighten insecurity in the region," he added.

In the past, Russia has expressed concerns about U.S. plans to build defenses against ballistic missiles.

Change of command for AFN South

VICENZA, Italy — Lt. Col. Scott F. Malcom will become the 12th commanding officer of American Forces Network South during a ceremony Thursday at Caserma Ederle.

Malcom replaces Lt. Col. Derek W. Crotts, who will attend the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Malcom was previously assigned to the Pentagon in the Army's Office of the Chief for Public Affairs.

AFN South is a regional component of AFN Europe and manages Army and Navy broadcast operations in Italy.

From staff reports

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IN THE STATES

Senate GOP's marriage amendment bid rejected

BY MARY DALRYMPLE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans prepared two versions of a constitutional amendment on marriage Monday, unable to agree among themselves on how best to get a vote on a measure that President Bush made an election-year priority for Congress.

The likely outcome is that neither proposal will get a direct vote after Democrats just last week had agreed to allow one.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said there was "great interest" among Republicans for a simpler approach that would add only one line to the U.S. Constitution: "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman."

Democrats rejected Frist's request to

hold votes on both it and the original version that included another sentence: "Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any state, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidence thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman."

Proponents of the amendment said they included the second sentence to clarify that state legislatures — but not courts — could still establish laws recognizing civil unions and domestic partnerships between two people of the same sex.

"There's been a considerable amount of debate and a lot of scholarly thought and a lot of constitutional experts that have been approached as far as what would be the best language," said Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., who authored the original version.

Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human

Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political organization, said the last-minute effort to get votes on two different versions reflected a lack of care in drafting the amendment.

"I think it is outrageous and frankly surreal that at the 11th hour in this debate, they are literally rewriting the Constitution on the back of a napkin," she said.

Democrats said opening the proposed amendment to changes could open the Constitution itself to other amendments ranging from campaign finance to flag burning.

The only vote likely to occur now is a procedural one scheduled for Wednesday aimed at forcing the Senate to act on the amendment.

Republicans, who had already conceded they lacked the two-thirds majority — or 67 votes — needed to advance a constitutional amendment, would have to get 60 votes to go on to a vote on the issue itself.



Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., center, speaks at a marriage amendment news conference on Capitol Hill Monday.

'Jeopardy!' contestant tops \$1M

Stars and Stripes

Ken Jennings, a software engineer from Utah, surpassed \$1 million in winnings Tuesday on "Jeopardy!," a record for that show.

In his 30th appearance on the show since the beginning of his marathon run June 2, Jennings added \$32,000 to his previous winnings of \$972,960 for a grand total of \$1,004,960.

He sailed through the day's categories, which included journalism, capital city burials, foreign animals and in-flight movies.

The Final Jeopardy! category was "Headlines in the last 40 years" and the answer was: "The first two New York Times headlines set in 96-point type were in these two years, five years apart." Although he posed an incorrect question, Jennings' accumulated



Jennings

earnings put him far ahead of his competitors.

The correct question dealt with the years 1969 and 1974, when man walked on the moon and President Richard

M. Nixon resigned.

On Friday and again on Monday, he tied the highest one-day winnings record of \$52,000, according to the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Seattle native who grew up in South Korea — his father works for an international law firm in Seoul — Jennings watched "Jeopardy!" on the U.S. Armed Forces

TV network, the Associated Press reported Sunday.

Jennings appeared on "Late Night with David Letterman" Monday to read the Top Ten list: Top Ten Ways To Irritate Alex Trebek, including No. 1, "Insist on buying a vowel."

To mark the beginning of its 20th year in syndication last September, "Jeopardy!" lifted its five-game limit, allowing winners to keep going until they lose.

The original show, hosted by Art Fleming, was created in 1964 by Merv Griffin, who also wrote the show's signature "think theme."

The previous record-holder was Tom Walsh, 39, of Washington, D.C., who brought in \$184,900 in winnings from a seven-day run in January.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Drug import bills

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers get an opportunity this week to cast election-year votes both for and against allowing prescription drug imports — roll calls they can tout separately to voters at home and to pharmaceutical companies and officials helping finance many of their campaigns.

An agriculture spending bill currently has a provision opening the way for imports by preventing the Food and Drug Administration from blocking purchases of FDA-approved drugs from Canada and other countries. Those imports generally carry prices about one-third lower than those charged in the United States.

But also scheduled this week is a vote on approving a U.S.-Australia free-trade agreement, the first trade pact to include specific provisions dealing with non-tariff market access issues related to pharmaceuticals.

Both bills are likely to pass by sizable majorities.

Food Pyramid overhaul

WASHINGTON — Most Americans are familiar with the federal Food Guide Pyramid — but a lot of people don't understand how to use it.

Too many are confused by the recommendations and can't figure out how to implement them. The proof, Agriculture Department officials say, is that two out of three Americans are fat.

So, as officials develop new guidelines on healthy eating, they also are looking for new ways to get out the message. Replacing the familiar food pyramid, first published in 1992, may be among them.

Agriculture Department officials talked about the problem of the pyramid Monday. The department is asking for public comment on whether to replace the pyramid or update it, said Eric Hentges, director of the Agriculture Department's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion.

From The Associated Press

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Pol looks at voters' views on candidates

BY WILL LESTER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush is viewed by more American voters as decisive and arrogant than Democratic rival John Kerry, according to an Associated Press poll. Voters are more likely to see Kerry as intelligent.

Asked who makes them feel more optimistic about the future, slightly more voters chose Bush than Kerry, the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs found. Both candidates are viewed as wealthy by nearly all voters, with slightly more seeing Bush as wealthy than Kerry.

Two-thirds in the poll think the president is decisive, the biggest character advantage the president has over Kerry in the poll. But a majority, 52 percent, also say they think Bush is arrogant.

"The quality I like about the president is he knows what he wants, and he focuses on what he wants to do. He's not wishy-washy," said Sam Werzberger, a 26-year-old independent from New York City, who hasn't decided for whom he will vote.

"I've seen very little of Kerry, but he seems to say what people want to hear."

More States stories on Page 25

The poll asked voters whether they would or would not use each of seven words — likable, intelligent, decisive, compassionate, honest, arrogant and wealthy — to describe Bush and then Kerry.

Kerry and Bush are closely matched on qualities like compassion, honesty and likability. But Bush has a 22-point edge over Kerry on the question of who is decisive. Two-thirds said Bush is decisive and fewer than half said that of Kerry.

As Kerry prepares to introduce himself to the public at the Democratic National Convention in two weeks, one of his biggest obstacles is convincing voters he can provide the kind of firm leadership needed in a time of war and terrorism.

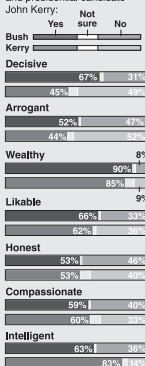
Bush's confidence and unwillingness to change his stand despite opposition are viewed negatively by some. A majority, 52 percent, said he's arrogant, more than the 44 percent who view Kerry that way.

Four in five voters, 83 percent, say Kerry is intelligent, compared with 63 percent who view Bush as intelligent.

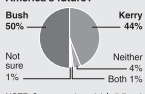
Nine in 10 voters view the president as wealthy while nearly as many, 85 percent, see Kerry as wealthy.

POLL Running traits

In a recent poll, 804 registered voters were asked whether each of the following adjectives describe President Bush and presidential candidate John Kerry:



Who makes you feel more optimistic about America's future?



NOTE: Survey conducted July 5-7 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

SOURCE: Ipsos-Public Affairs for AP

Bush trumpets conservatism

BY SCOTT LINDLAU
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush is courting rural voters in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, closely shadowing rival John Kerry's recent Midwest tour and trying to outflank the Democrat on his claim that he is the champion of "conservative values."

Bush refers to Kerry as "the senator from Massachusetts" — a dig meant to reinforce Bush's assertion that Kerry is out of touch with Middle America. Bush carries that message on Tuesday to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, a sparsely populated region now sitting president has visited in more than 90 years.

Bush won the Upper Peninsula, according to his campaign, but lost Michigan by about 5 percentage points, and he wants its 17 electoral votes in his column this year. He was trumpeting what he views as an improving economy in a region that is heavily blue collar, with many jobs supported by shipping and ironworks.

"Yet the region leans strongly Republican, exemplifying the troubles Democrats have in rural America."

Bush then heads west to Minnesota, the

state where Kerry declared earlier this month that he represented conservative values that rural Americans hold dear.

Jennifer Millerwise, a Bush campaign spokeswoman, said she didn't square with Kerry's positions on taxes, medical malpractice reform and other issues.

"When you look at all these critical issues to this part of America, John Kerry's positions stand in stark contrast to those of President Bush," Millerwise said.

The spokeswoman pointed to Kerry's attendance last week at a celebrity fund-raiser in New York City in which celebrities bashed Bush.

"John Kerry one week was in America's heartland saying 'I share your conservative values' and then in New York City at a Hollywood event where there were vulgar language and actors on stage attacking the president," Millerwise said.

Bush makes a second trip on Wednesday through Wisconsin, a state he lost in 2000 by fewer than 6,000 votes.

Kerry to highlight his service

BY NEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

BOSTON — The Democratic National Convention will spotlight John Kerry's public service, with particular emphasis on the Massachusetts senator's time in the military, and include speeches by two former presidents and his family, the campaign said Tuesday.

As the United States tries to repair relationships with its allies and braces for the possibility of another terrorist attack, the campaign said that the July 26-29 convention will be centered around the theme of "Stronger in the World."

The opening night will feature former Presidents Carter and Clinton and former Vice President Al Gore.

Kerry plans to cap the four-day gathering of more than 4,000 delegates with an acceptance speech outlining his vision to

improve the nation's standing at home and abroad. But with many voters still unfamiliar with Kerry despite more than two years of campaigning, the convention also has been designed to help people get to know his biography, including his experience as prosecutor, a lieutenant governor, a senator and a decorated Naval officer in Vietnam.

Kerry's address is to be led by his daughters and stepsons and some of the crewmates from his Navy swiftboat in Vietnam, who have been familiar faces on the campaign trail. He is scheduled to be introduced by former Sen. Max Cleland of Georgia.

Kerry told supporters at a fund-raiser Monday that he welcomes a debate about patriotism with President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney.

"The flag of the United States of America that I fought under, that streamed out behind my gun turret, that has covered the coffins of friends, that flag doesn't belong to the president, it doesn't belong to a party, it doesn't belong to an ideology," Kerry said. "It is a symbol of the strength of a nation of diversity and tolerance, of a democracy that has dissent, alternative ideas, and we are going to retain that flag for the United States of America."

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IN THE WORLD

WHO: World has failed in AIDS treatment

BY IAN MADER

The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — The World Health Organization said Tuesday the world has "failed miserably" in providing life-saving drugs to millions afflicted with HIV, while France accused the United States of bullying poor countries into ceding rights to make cheap generic AIDS drugs.

A U.S. official denied the French allegation at the International AIDS Conference as "nonsense," while meeting delegates lamented that only about 7 percent of the 6 million people in poor countries who urgently need antiretroviral treatment are getting it.

"The biggest threat to our livelihood, our happiness is AIDS," actor Richard Gere told the conference. "A vicious terrorist is out there. It is not Osama bin Laden, it is AIDS."

Since the last AIDS conference in Barcelona in 2002, the number of people being treated for the disease has doubled in the developing world to 440,000. At the same time, 6 million people died from the virus and 10 million people became infected, WHO figures show.

"Of these measures of human life, the ones that really matter, we have failed. And we have failed miserably to do enough in the precious time that has passed since Barcelona," said Jim Kim, WHO's AIDS director.



Accompanied by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, left, U.N. General Secretary Kofi Annan, reviews the honor guard Tuesday during a welcoming ceremony at Government House in Bangkok, Thailand. Annan is in Thailand for an official visit and to attend the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok.

Cost is a key issue. European and U.S. pharmaceutical giants make most of the drugs, which are protected by patents and can cost as much as \$5,000 per person a year. But many companies have slashed AIDS drug prices in recent years, and have given some away free in Africa.

Developing countries such as Thailand, Brazil and India are making cheap generic

drugs — the WHO put its seal of approval on four new generic Indian products Tuesday — but they are not enough to reach everybody.

An estimated 38 million people are infected with HIV, mostly in poor countries: 25 million in sub-Saharan Africa and 7.2 million in Asia.

In a statement read out at the confer-

ence, Chirac said forcing certain countries "to drop these measures in the framework of bilateral trade negotiations would be tantamount to blackmail."

"We should implement the (WTO) generic drug agreement to consolidate price reductions — what is the point of starting treatment without any guarantee of having quality and affordable drugs in the long term?" Chirac said.

World Trade Organization rules give developing countries the flexibility to ignore foreign patents and produce copies of expensive drugs in times of health crises. All WTO members including the United States have signed an agreement to respect that clause.

But there is nothing to prevent a country from imposing patent restrictions in a bilateral trade agreement, such as one Washington is negotiating with Thailand.

France's global ambassador on AIDS, Mireille Guigaz, said Chirac was not trying to create tension with Washington.

"The United States wants to put pressure on developing countries who try to stand up for their own industries," Guigaz said. "This is a problem."

A U.S. official who declined to be named called the French allegations "nonsense," and insisted the trade agreements will conform to WTO rules allowing poor countries to make generic drugs.

"There really is no issue," he said.

Planners begin redrawing route for West Bank wall closer to Israel

BY MARK LAVIE

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Cartographers have begun redrawing the planned route of the West Bank separation barrier closer to Israel, in line with an Israeli court ruling that the government must reduce hardship for Palestinian residents, officials said Tuesday.

Later this week, planners will present three different options for a new route to the Defense Ministry for approval, security officials said on condition of anonymity. All three routes are significantly closer to Israel than the original path.

"We're looking at ways to bring

the fence closer to the Green Line," said Foreign Ministry official Gideon Meir, referring to Israel's pre-1967 Mideast War frontier with the West Bank.

Hassan Abu Labbeh, the Palestinian Cabinet secretary, said Israel must build the barrier entirely on its territory, and that any changes falling short of that are unacceptable.

Also Tuesday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon made overtures to two religious parties to join his shaky coalition, a day after he made a similar offer to the moderate Labor Party, political sources said. In court ruling parties, Sharon apparently was trying to defuse opposition in his Likud Party to bringing in Labor.

The West Bank barrier is to run for 425 miles. One-fourth has already been built. The changes will be made mainly in the section still in the planning stages.

Israeli officials said the planners' decisions were based on the criteria established by Israel's Supreme Court in a ruling last month and that last week's world court decision on the barrier was not a factor. "What counts is the decision of the Supreme Court of the state of Israel," said Meir.

Israel's high court said the barrier could be built to keep out Palestinian attackers, but that the route caused too much hardship for Palestinians. The world court said in an advisory ruling that the barrier is illegal and must be dismantled.

Suitcase appears to yield Beatles bounty

The Associated Press

LONDON — All you need is luck.

A vacationer who purchased a suitcase at an Australian flea market found a treasure of Beatles memorabilia inside, including photos, concert programs and unreleased recordings, The Times newspaper reported Tuesday.

While the materials have yet to be authenticated, some experts believe the collection is the lost "Mal Evans archive," originally belonging to the Beatles' roadie and sound recorder.

Evans was killed by police in Los Angeles in 1976 after he had brandished a fake gun. The contents of the suitcase were lost during the police investigation, The Times said.

Fraser Cloughton, 41, from Tinkerton, England, found the suitcase in a small town outside of Melbourne, The Times said.

Realizing the suitcase was not empty, he bought it for about \$36.

"It's like finding the end of the rainbow in Australia," The Times quoted Cloughton as saying. "I spotted one tatty old suitcase, which frankly I wouldn't have given house room, but when I picked it up there was something in it."

The 4 1/2 hour reel-to-reel tape recording includes John Lennon and Paul McCartney experimenting with alternative versions of some previously unrecorded tracks. The collection also includes previously unknown versions of new recordings of "We Can Work It Out" and "Cry Baby Cry."

The tapes, labeled "Abbey Road... not for release," will be evaluated by the Beatles' record label, Apple, and examined by experts to determine their origin and authenticity.



African immigrants appear from the German Cap Anamur aid ship as they dock Monday in the Sicilian Harbour of Porto Empedocle, Italy.

Arrest of 3 aid ship officials draws international criticism

BY AIDAN LEWIS

The Associated Press

AGRIGENTO, Sicily — The arrest of three officials of an international aid ship that disembarked 37 Africans on the Sicilian coast provoked an outcry Tuesday, with politicians, aid groups and the Vatican saying the move violated humanitarian principles.

The ship run by the German aid agency Cap Anamur had been stranded at sea since June 20. On Monday, after weeks of debate over who should accept the Africans, the ship won permission to dock in Sicily.

Italian authorities immediately arrested the ship's captain, its first mate, and the head of the aid agency for aiding illegal immigration.

Police said some of the Africans are from Ghana and Nigeria but lied and said they came from

Sudan's troubled Darfur region, which the United Nations has described as having the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

"The captain and the ship owner could not ascertain the federal of the 37 immigrants rescued in the Mediterranean and they just took note of what was said to them," said defense lawyer Salvatore Filippini La Rosa, according to the ANSA news agency.

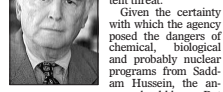
In Germany officials expressed dismay at the arrest. A spokeswoman of the Foreign Minister in Berlin said an official was sent to Sicily "to provide consular support for those involved."

"Humanitarian actions must not be criminalized," said a joint statement from Germany's Federal Development Minister Heidemarie Wiesebeck-Zeul and Harald Scharf, the economics minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, where the Cap Anamur organization is based.

OPINION

Report on CIA lies should take heat off Bush

The Senate Intelligence Committee's scathing critique of the CIA's inaccurate and unsubstantiated claims concerning weapons of mass destruction in Iraq has brought a new dimension to the debate over whether the Bush administration should be held accountable for launching a pre-emptive strike based on a non-existent threat.



Given the certainty with which the agency posed the dangers of chemical, biological and probably nuclear programs from Saddam Hussein, the answer should be no. But that won't stop the president's opponents from contending that Bush should have known despite the Senate taking some of the sting out of that argument.

What has been suspected for some time seems clear now: that Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell based their own charges about WMD to Congress and the United Nations on agency reports that were overstated, distorted, inadequate, unreliable and, in some instances, omitted crucial contradictory information.

Furthermore, the Senate report certifies as never before that the CIA is a failed institution that needs dramatic overhaul sooner rather than later. Until now much of the criticism focused on the FBI's failure to heed signs that might have headed off the Sept. 11, 2001, attack. It now appears that the CIA was equally as culpable and derelict in its as-

essment of the overseas threat.

At one point, the CIA failed to disclose to the president that the relatives of Iraqi scientists and even a defector scientist had stated unequivocally that Saddam had abandoned efforts to develop chemical and biological weapons, as he had the program to build a nuclear capability. At another juncture, the agency's higher-ups discouraged internal questions about the reliability of a key informant. Rarely has there been a more devastating disclosure of failure and national disservice that stretches back to the Clinton administration if not further. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton told reporters that her husband felt that he had failed to receive adequate information about Iraq and terrorism.

In some instances, the committee believes that analysts may have deliberately distorted evidence to support the claims of WMD presence, leading the investigators to conclude that the CIA had become an advocate for war rather than trying to remain objective in its reports to Bush.

One instance of outright deception cited by the bipartisan committee concerned Powell's assertion to the United Nations that Iraq had mobile biological weapons labs and that a shipment of Iraq-bound aluminum tubes was evidence of a new nuclear program. The CIA argued that the tubes were to be used to help enrich uranium and when experts disagreed, arguing the tubes were for conventional rockets, the CIA hired its own analysts. Ultimately, despite a dissent from his own department, Powell used the tubes to back up WMD claims before the U.N.

Until now administration critics have contended that the White House put its own spin on shaky information to support its case against Saddam. However, the Senate committee found no evidence of White House



pressure on the CIA to alter reports or bolster its claims. That alone should absolve the president of allegations that he deliberately lied to the American public to support his agenda for removing Saddam. ...

No commander in chief can operate without proper intelligence. Robert E. Lee privately blamed his cavalry commander, Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, for failing to provide adequate reports on Union strength and position at Gettysburg and the Civil War might have ended sooner had Abraham Lincoln not received overstated Pinkerton estimates of the size of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Whether an accurate assessment of the

WMD situation would have deterred the invasion of Iraq is anyone's guess. The president has replied only that Saddam was such a constant deterrent to stability, supporter of terrorism and murderer of his own people that the world is a safer place without him. ... If the CIA reported accurately that there was no evidence of WMD capacity, it might have given the administration pause. It is a good bet Powell and others would have advised against the invasion.

Unfortunately for Bush, his reliance on this flawed agency may cost him big time, albeit unfairly.

Dan Thomasson is a former editor of the Scripps Howard News Service.

Need is great, so anti-gay DOD rule must be retired

BY NATHANIEL FRANK

In a move some are calling a "backdoor draft," the Pentagon has announced it will issue mandatory recalls to more than 5,600 Army troops for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. The use of these soldiers from the Individual Ready Reserve is the latest step military leaders are taking to maintain adequate troop strength for our continuing battles in the Middle East. Thousands of servicemembers have had their tours of duty extended beyond the terms of their contracts. Stop-loss orders were issued to delay scheduled discharges. And Congress recently approved increasing the size of the Army by 20,000 recruits.

As military and political leaders struggle to address critical troop shortages in the Middle East, they should consider the results of a data analysis just released by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military of the University of California at Santa Barbara. Our report, which analyzed data obtained from the Defense Manpower Data Center through a Freedom of Information Act request, revealed that the military is losing mission-critical combat and support specialists because of the ban on openly gay soldiers. What is particularly troubling about the results is that the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which requires the discharge of known gays and lesbians, is ousting troops in the same occupational specialties as servicemembers who are being involuntarily recalled from civilian life.

The Pentagon's recalls are targeting specialists with needed skills in intelligence, engineering, medicine, administration, transportation, security, and other key support and logistical areas. Under the gay ban, the military has expelled thousands of just such troops: 268 in intelligence; 57 in combat engi-

neering; 331 in medical treatment; 255 in administration; 292 in transportation; 232 in military police and security; and 420 in supply and logistics since 1998. It also booted 88 language specialists (many of them Arabic-language translators and interrogators); 49 nuclear, biological and chemical warfare experts; 52 missile guidance and control operators; and 150 rocket, missile and other artillery specialists.

In certain badly needed specialties, the military could have avoided involuntary recalls altogether if it had not expelled competent gay troops in those fields. It is recalling 72 soldiers in communication and navigation but expelled 115 gay troops in that category; 33 in operational intelligence but expelled 50 gays; 33 in combat operations control but expelled 106.

In total, while the Army is set to recall

5,674 troops from the Individual Ready Reserve, 6,273 troops have been discharged for being gay, lesbian or bisexual since 1998.

The forced extension of military service comes at great cost to America's troops and its mission. We now depend heavily on reservists and National Guard troops, who have less training, higher stress levels and lower morale. Members of the IRR are even less prepared and less cohesive, because they have not been training with a unit while out of the service. The "don't ask, don't tell" policy, in short, puts discrimination against competent soldiers above the combat readiness of the entire force.

Early in the current conflict, the Pentagon issued stop-loss orders to maintain troop strength as the nation went to war. But so determined was the military to spare its ranks the mark of homosexuality that the order ex-

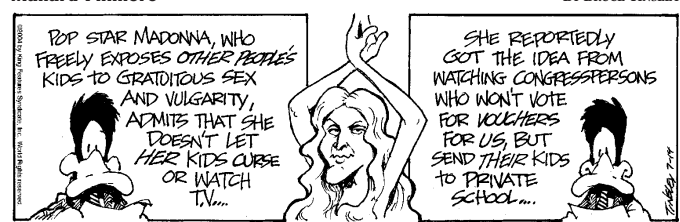
plicitly excepted gay discharges from the stop loss, allowing their expulsions to continue. Yet gay-discharge figures, which have skyrocketed under "don't ask, don't tell," have sagged during the war itself, as they have in every war since World War II. Why? Because commanders in the field, clearly having turned the battles at hand, clearly have wanted a blind eye to the policy. They know what nearly every expert admits: When unit cohesion matters most, sexual orientation is the furthest thing from anyone's mind.

It's time to call on Congress, which wrote the current gay ban into law, to put national security before discrimination against patriotic gay Americans ready to serve their country.

Nathaniel Frank is a senior research fellow at the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California at Santa Barbara and is writing a book on "don't ask, don't tell." This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



YOUR MONEY

Experts, downers and moles

A guide to office roles and the people who fill them

By JOE HOLLEMAN

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The 1999 film "Office Space" pointed out the inherent insanity of the modern workplace, and how much time and energy we spend there. On the small screen, the BBC show "The Office" has mined the same ground.

So who are these people who populate our work worlds for 40 or more hours a week? Jack Dougherty, a corporate communications specialist in the San Francisco area, said these people are the same, everywhere.

"Once you get 10 people together, they find a default position, they fall into a pattern of behavior," said Dougherty, founder of Dougherty Diagnostics and co-author of "Most Likely to Be A Success."

So, without further ado, a list of common office annoyances. Please note that this list is not comprehensive.

1. Loud Talkers: When more than four people share a workspace, at least one of them will fill that space with 95-decibel voices. They either are physically incapable of whispering or, more likely, they think everyone is interested in what they have to say. Forget earplugs, because it only make us (oops, I mean "them") try even harder to be heard.

2. Angry Man (Woman): No matter what happened — in the news, at the morning meeting, over the weekend — it really kicked off Angry Man. If your office is liberal, Angry Man is for George Bush.

Conservative? John Kerry. If you're apolitical, Angry Man is jerked by your apathy. When all else fails, Angry Man gets mad because everyone else is not.

3. One-Uppers: Did you just get back from a week in Florida? Well, they just got back from two weeks in Aruba. Your airplane ticket was \$250? Theirs was \$199. If you lost 8 pounds, they lost 10 — and they didn't even have to go on a diet. Whatever interest-

ing experience you have had, they had it twice, for twice as long.

4. Super Parents: Be careful. Even if you can't take one more story about Johnnie's home run at T-ball or how Heather's dance teacher says Heather is the finest under-10 tap dancer she's ever seen, keep quiet.

To criticize Super Parents can sound like you are criticizing the kids, and that's not good. Besides, the kids wish Super Parents would shut up, too.

5. The Experts: Aka "Cliff Claven," after the know-it-all from "Cheers." They are especially dangerous because any subject can set them off. Make an incoherent comment about weather and you get a 15-minute explanation of geothermal anomalies inherent to alluvial plains. But the really annoying part is that, every so often, they actually come in handy.

6. Moles: Skulking around the office, hovering over your desk while you type, appearing suddenly in the midst of every conversation, they trade in information. Information about you, if they can get it. They know who's dating whom and they also too much to drink at the office party. They also float conspiracy theories about hirings, firings and layoffs.

7. The Downers: Bad luck and hard times visit us all. But what about those who always are having a tough time? Don't they understand that a lot of the time, the best response to "How are you?" is "Fine." And if they don't have a tragedy of their own, they'll tell you about their neighbor's sister's husband with some incurable disease. For fun, sit them next to ...

8. The Uppers: How can smiling, happy people be so utterly annoying. They are so positive and bubbly that you can just feel the psychotic breakdown sneaking up on them. Their desks have lots of little poems and inspirational messages stuck here and there. If they have anything "Ziggy" on their desk, it's way too late to help them.

Adobe upgrade not keeping up

Q. I was running Adobe Reader 6.0 when an announcement popped up saying that there was an upgraded version, 6.0.1, available on the Adobe Systems Inc. site. Supposedly, this upgrade had some patches and fixed some bugs with the 6.0 reader. I downloaded and installed the upgrade.

Since then, the reader works fine if I open it as a stand-alone application or if I double-click on a PDF file on my system. However, if I'm in Internet Explorer and click on a link to a PDF file, I get an error message stating that Acrobat Reader cannot be found. To add complexity, if Adobe Reader is already open when I click on the link, the document opens. I've tried uninstalling and reinstalling, but the same thing happens. —Jon Freyner

A. During that Adobe Reader upgrade, something probably caused your browser settings to switch off the permission for your browser to run plug-ins from third parties. That is why documents with the Adobe PDF extension will open when you click on them outside the browser.

So open Internet Explorer, click on Tools and Internet Op-

tions and then select the Advanced tab. There you will find a series of check boxes for numerous options, and there almost certainly will be no check mark in the one to permit third-party plug-ins.

In the unlikely event that something got jumbled in the browser software's innards to cause this shunning of Adobe, you can restore Internet Explorer to its original state when your computer came out of the box. You then can follow the prompts to go to the Microsoft Web site to do the upgrades you have installed over time.

The drill here is the same as you used to uninstall Adobe Reader.

Click on Start and Control Panel, select the Microsoft Internet Explorer and then click on Remove. Instead of totally removing this software, Windows XP will restore the browser to its original state.

The browser cannot be erased totally because it is built into the operating system.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at: jcoates@akribone.com or via snail mail at the Chicago Tribune, Room 400, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. Questions can be answered only through this column. Add your point of view at: www.akribone.com/askjim

Ask Jim

Jim Coates

MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES								
	52-week High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD Chg	52-week High
	2,712.12	8,956.76	Dow Jones Industrial	10,253.28	+25.80	+0.24	+2.86	+11.56
	2,416.39	2,416.39	S&P 500	1,030.78	+1.65	+0.16	+2.81	+2.81
	2,252.53	2,226.46	Dow Jones Utilities	2,717.17	+2.12	+0.08	+3.85	+4.51
	6,798.12	5,439.77	NYSE Composite	1,259.68	+3.36	+0.26	+3.99	+15.62
	1,278.88	938.75	Russell 2000	1,259.68	+0.88	+0.07	+3.74	+29.56
	2,153.83	1,040.88	Nasdaq Composite	1,935.90	-9.41	-0.48	-3.12	-0.68
	1,163.23	969.84	S&P MidCap	1,114.35	+1.44	+0.13	+2.23	+0.11
	696.42	449.97	S&P SmallCap	586.35	-1.52	-0.26	+1.80	+0.72
	113,714.1	9,258.56	NYSE 100	562.24	-14.9	-2.6	+3.96	+7.37
	113,714.1	9,258.56	NYSE 200	113,714.1	-1.49	-0.00	+0.00	+0.00

NYSE				
	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Name	Vol	Vol	Vol	Vol
Alcatel	259,440	+141	+1,410	+1,410
Altria	1,984,314	+1,28	+0.08	+0.08
Amgen	1,984,314	+1,28	+0.08	+0.08
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NYSE				
	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Name	Vol	Vol	Vol	Vol
Alcatel	259,440	+141	+1,410	+1,410
Altria	1,984,314	+1,28	+0.08	+0.08
Amgen	1,984,314	+1,28	+0.08	+0.08
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Amgen	1,984,314	+1,28	+0.08	+0.08
Amgen	1,984,314	+1,28	+0.08	+0.08

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
British pound	\$1.271
Japanese yen (July 12)	106.00
S. Korean won (July 10)	1,212.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	0.6198
Canada (Dollar)	1.3309
Denmark (Krone)	1.5584
France (Euro)	0.7936
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7125
Hungary (Forint)	202.47
Indonesia (Rupiah)	1,668.00
Israel (Shekel)	4.4763
Japan (Yen)	106.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Nepal (Rupee)	1.0000
Philippines (Peso)	55.74
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3688
S. Korea (Won)	1,149.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2004
Thailand (Baht)	46.68
Turkey (Lira)	1,449.273

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Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Credit card rewards

ferent promotions and conditions regarding how you can earn and spend your rewards.

While getting something back for your purchases may sound like a good idea, be sure to read the fine print. Reward cards typically have an APR about 4 percentage points higher than other credit cards — around 14 percent to 16 percent.

Because interest charges could easily eclipse what you'd save with rewards, a rewards card makes the most sense if you pay off the balance every month.

Limit the number of reward cards you own. Using multiple cards prevents you from racking up points toward any one reward.

To find a rewards program that works for you, visit www.creditcards.com, www.credit-reviews.com or www.creditrecenter.com. The sites allow you to search for and compare available credit cards.

NEW YORK — Consumers who have felt the pinch of high gas prices are turning to gas-reward credit cards to save at the pump.

The Wall Street Journal reports that credit-card companies are seeing increased interest in their reward programs, particularly those for fuel reimbursement. In turn, companies have been heavily promoting reward programs.

Reward cards are a type of credit card where you earn something, either rebates or points, for purchases you make. These aren't your typical store-reward credit cards. Federal programs are offered by major credit-card companies and can be used anywhere.

Potential rewards include airline tickets, merchandise or fuel reimbursement, car rebates, cash back, investments or even contributions to a college-savings plan. Each program has dif-

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$401.10
Silver	\$6.26

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	
Discount rate	2.25
3-month bill	4.25
30-year mortgage	1.315
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com	



KEY: ☀ Sunny ☁ P. City ☁ Mostly cloudy ☁ Cloudy ☁ Showers ☁ Tornado ☁ Rain ☁ Rain/snow ☁ Snow

Cold front Warm front Trough Occluded front Stationary front Low High

AFRICA

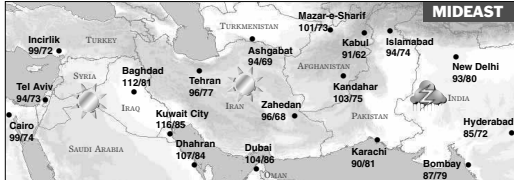
Cape Town	66	44	Mogadishu	80	73
Dakar	84	74	Nairobi	74	81
Freetown	84	74	Rabat	85	66
Khartoum	80	66			

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	69	58	Manila	89	73
Bahran	110	84	Mexico City	71	83
Beijing	87	67	Montreal	77	65
Bombay	90	74	Riyadh	110	83
Buenos Aires	86	78	Rio de Janeiro	80	67
Calcutta	82	65	Saudi	81	70
Hanoi	82	65	Sydney	59	40
Hong Kong	82	67	Tokyo	86	75

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska	74	64	Alaska	74	64
Alaska	74	64	Alaska	74	64
Alaska	74	64	Alaska	74	64
Alaska	74	64	Alaska	74	64
Alaska	74	64	Alaska	74	64
Alaska	74	64	Alaska	74	64
Alaska	74	64	Alaska	74	64
Alaska	74	64	Alaska	74	64
Alaska	74	64	Alaska	74	64
Alaska	74	64	Alaska	74	64



MIDEAST

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the mid to upper 60s and lows in the mid to upper 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the mid-60s to lower 70s and lows in the lower 50s to lower 60s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s and lows in the upper 50s.

France: Partly cloudy with morning rain showers to the north. Highs in the 70s and lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

Northern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with morning rain showers. Highs in the mid-60s to lower 70s and lows in the 50s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid-60s to lower 70s and lows in the lower 50s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the 60s and lows in the 50s.

Northern Italy: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s and lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

Southern Italy: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon and sunny in the morning. Highs in the 80s and lows in the 60s.

Kosovo: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s.

Norway: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the low to mid-60s and lows in the upper 40s to lower 50s.

Portugal, Spain: Sunny. Highs in the low 80s to lower 90s and lows in the 60s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms to the northwest. Highs in the 70s...upper 70s to the northwest. Lows in the upper 50s to mid-60s to the northwest and inland...lower 70s elsewhere.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at www.ows.sembach.af.mil

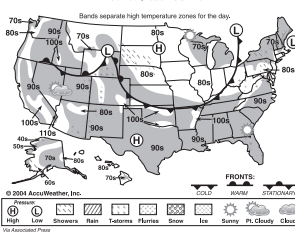
SUN & MOON

Sunrise (London)	Today	0653	Tomorrow	0654
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	Today	0532	Tomorrow	0533
Sunset (London)	Today	2114	Tomorrow	2113
Sunset (Frankfurt)	Today	2130	Tomorrow	2129

Last day 0709 New moon 0717 First day 0725 Full moon 0731

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



Scheduled to E or PCS?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

Your Stripes. Your Story. Get it Daily.

STARS AND STRIPES

Nuke tanks leaking

SC COLUMBIA — Fifteen tanks holding deadly atomic waste at a nuclear weapons complex along the Savannah River have cracked, rusted or leaked, according to federal inspection reports.

Some of the cracks date to the 1950s, when the steel tanks first went into use at the Savannah River Site. But inspection reports say some leaks have been found in the past three years.

In 2001, 92 gallons of radioactive waste leaked through a 40-year-old tank into a containment area. Six leak sites were found on the 750,000-gallon, 24-foot high steel tank.

Secondary containment systems have kept radioactive poisons from getting into groundwater. But a containment system failed in 1960, and the waste leaked into the ground, the reports said.

The 300-square-mile federal weapons complex has 51 steel tanks holding 37 million gallons of waste, including uranium, cesium and plutonium.

Sex sauna shuttered

NY A state appeals court in Manhattan has shut down a reputed gay sex sauna in the Wall Street area after its management failed to keep a promise that alleged high-risk sexual activity there would be stopped.

The Supreme Court's Appellate Division granted the city's nuisance abatement petition and closed the Wall Street Sauna after health department undercover inspectors reported seeing 33 acts of high-risk sex there since June 2003.

The health department, with court permission, closed the sauna Feb. 2 "as part of its ongoing effort to combat AIDS," a city law department statement said. Eighteen of the sex acts occurred after a Sept. 11, 2003, warning letter to the club, the statement said.

On Feb. 11, 2004, Justice Louis York let part of the sauna, which is at Broadway and Maiden Lane, open on the condition that all sexual activity would be barred. But in April, a Department of Health and Mental Hygiene investigator reportedly saw more high-risk sex.

The sauna's entry fee, which included a locker, was \$11, said a man who answered the telephone.

Still seeking justice

FL JACKSONVILLE — The son of a black maid who was killed during race riots 40 years ago has gotten another rejection in his campaign against three white men who were indicted on murder charges but never stood trial.

State Attorney Harry Shorstein wrote to Shelton Chappell, son of Johnnie May Chappell, that he is "saddened by ... this historically tragic loss" but will not reopen the 1964 case.

Shelton Chappell, who was just 4 months old when his mother was killed, said he was disappointed but will continue to seek justice. "I'm not going to stop," he told The Florida Times-Union. "We've come this far, and my mother deserves better than this."

Johnnie May Chappell was shot March 1964 during race riots as black protesters demonstrated at hotels and restaurants demanding



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

equal rights.

Four men were indicted but only one went to trial. A jury convicted the confessed shooter, J.W. Rich, of manslaughter, and he spent three years in prison.

Teen remains in coma

WI MILWAUKEE — A 14-year-old boy suffered brain injuries and a fractured skull in the second severe beating by a mob in this city in less than a week.

The boy, who was attacked a few blocks from the site of a fatal mob beating in 2002, remained in a coma.

The attack began as a shoving match between the teen and a younger boy at a recreation program, the victim's older sister told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. The sister did not want to be identified.

The younger boy ran to get older relatives. One man, in his early to mid-20s, hit the 14-year-old over the head with a piece of lumber, police said.

Twenty people were there but it was unclear how many were involved in the fight. Milwaukee police were looking for a man considered a suspect in the case but had not made any arrests, Capt. Michael Young said.

Vandals in village

VT WEST BURKE — Village trustees just want a little peace and quiet.



Gettin' jiggy

Kate Hanser, left, performs the Highland Fling along with Paul Graf, center, and Greg Garf, right, during the 49th annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and Gathering of Scottish Clans near Linville, N.C.

They say groups of young people are vandalizing property, using foul language and intimidating children in the local park — and it's time to nip the problem in the bud.

The board of trustees had a meeting with residents, Vermont State Police Lt. George Hacking and Constable Paul Gallant to discuss the issue.

Board of trustees Chairman Mike Harris said a group of youngsters has formed a "gang," which is the core of the problem.

He said he has talked with principals at schools in Burke, Sutton and Newark. They all said they have noticed some children wearing bandanas and trying to recruit other, younger students.

Gallant and the state police have been focusing on West Burke for the past month and the situation has improved some, Harris said.

Held for ransom

CA POMONA — Fourteen suspected illegal immigrants and seven others suspected of holding them for ransom were discovered in a raid on a Pomona home, police said.

Police went to the house after receiving a tip that illegal immigrants were being held against their will after paying \$1,500 to \$3,000 to be transported to the United States, said police Sgt. A.C. Cox.

Scholl fund use queried

TX FORT WORTH — Critics are questioning the use of the state's Permanent School Fund to help lure a massive Wal-Mart distribution center to Baytown.

In the deal, the Permanent School Fund will buy a 2 million square foot facility from Wal-Mart for a projected \$80 million and lease it back to the retailer for 30 to 40 years, with the rent payments going to the fund.

Details of the transaction were obtained through a Texas Public Information Act request filed by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Since the fund is tax-exempt, local cities, counties and school districts can't collect taxes on the land or the building. And unlike most locally approved tax breaks, Wal-Mart isn't required to meet investment or job-creation goals.

Historic site unearthed

VA ROANOKE — Archaeologists have uncovered pottery pieces, spear tips made of quartz and a large cooking area in an American Indian settlement dating back to the 13th century.

The dig is the latest of several that have taken place over the last few decades along the Roanoke River. A series of floods, which may have forced the group to leave, protected the artifacts and kept them from becoming mixed with the remnants of later civilizations, said Bill Stanyard, a senior archaeologist at the site.

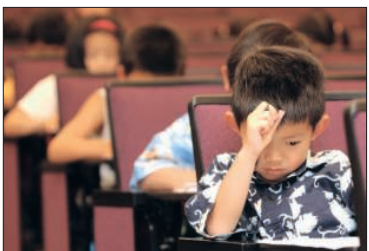
Stanyard's team of a dozen archaeologists plan to continue excavating the 8,000-square-foot site for the next several weeks.

When the dig is complete, the settlement will be mapped and the artifacts will be stored by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to be made available to researchers or museums. The site will then be wiped out when the river channel is widened for flood reduction.



Big shot

Loyd Bagwell, 11, prepares to shoot a 3-foot-tall basketball as he plays Monster Basketball during the Hoopla 3-on-3 basketball tournament at Hillcrest Park in Clovis, N.M.



Problem solver

First-grader Mathew Sie, 6, from Glendale Hills, Calif., keeps a sharp eye on his test questionnaire during the annual Kumon Math Challenge at the University of Southern California.



Dinner time

This black-crowned night heron works to swallow a spot it picked up while patrolling the shallow waters of Town Creek, in Beaufort, N.C.



Enjoying the sunshine

Wendy Fairchild-Valdez watches her son play soccer at Kroh Park in Loveland, Colo.



Hanging on

Dave Goar competes in the jump category of the Fergus Falls Barefoot Open and National Barefoot League Tournament on the Otter Tail River in Fergus Falls, Minn.



Political cheerleader

A supporter cheers for Democratic Presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., as he speaks at a breakfast in New York.



Educational trip

Street in the Brooklyn, New York.

Susan Auerbach, center, explains to her sons Gabriel, 7, left, and Simon, 4, how a guillotine works during the fourth annual Bastille Day on Smith

'For sale' signs for sale

NH PLAISTOW — Housing prices are going up, and so is the cost of advertising a home for sale.

Real estate agents are fuming over the town's recent decision to charge them \$50 a month for each "For Sale" sign they post in front of homes.

The issue came up when a local car dealership was ordered to pay the fee when it repainted an old sign to reflect a change in ownership. Former Selectman Barbara Hobbs, who owns the land where the business is located, complained to the town building inspector, saying that if her tenant had to pay, real estate agents should as well.

Grouse quandary

NV RENO— Nevada has an abundance of sage grouse habitat and healthy populations, but a new state report says a broad spectrum of public-land use restrictions may be necessary in some areas to protect the bird from demise.

The report by Gov. Kenny Guinn's sage grouse conservation team identifies statewide goals and recommendations from local planning groups around the state to address specific threats in certain areas.

The highest priority should be to protect population strongholds and large swaths of healthy sagebrush habitat critical to the bird's survival, according to the report.

Sex offenders study

TX DALLAS — Texas leads the nation in the number of registered sex offenders living in nursing homes after being paroled from prison, according to a new study.

A study by the Oklahoma-based advocacy group A Perfect Cause found 380 sex offenders living at nursing homes in 32 states by matching the addresses of sex offenders in state registries with government recognized nursing homes.

Texas had the most, with 70 offenders at 57 nursing homes. Further analysis by The Dallas Morning News found two additional sex offenders living in Texas nursing homes.

Illinois was No. 2, with 57 offenders at 38 nursing homes, according to A Perfect Cause.

Getting their due

VA NORFOLK — About 200 city school employees are starting the weekend with a stash of overdue cash.

Amid fears that labor lawsuits soon will spread throughout Virginia, the Norfolk school system is issuing nearly \$65,000 in overtime checks to right any wrongs.

The money is for overtime wages employees earned, but were not paid as far back as September 2001.

The 1938 Federal Fair Labor Standards Act requires that employees earn 1½ times their regular wage for each hour they work over 40 hours a week. The law allows for workers to recoup up to three years of back pay.

Hunger strike

WA SPOKANE — A jail inmate who has not eaten solid food since February has been sentenced more than 14 years in state prison, where he wants to con-

tinue his fast, his lawyer said.

A weak Charles R. McNabb, 50, was taken in a wheelchair to Spokane County Superior Court, where Judge Jerome Leveque sentenced him to 17½ months in prison after McNabb pleaded guilty to single counts of first-degree arson and first-degree assault in a May 23, 2003, fire at his estranged wife's home.

McNabb has lost nearly half of the 180 pounds he weighed when arrested, Collins said. The inmate weighs at least 80, but less than 100 pounds, Collins said.

McNabb sporadically began refusing to eat last November, but hasn't voluntarily eaten solid food since Feb. 5, Collins said. He drinks water and occasionally coffee.

Too young to drive

NH HOOKSETT — Police are wondering whether any adults should be charged in the case of a 3-year-old who drove into a mobile home.

The toddler was left alone in a running car in Hooksett. All alone, the child climbed into the driver's seat and managed to put it in reverse. The car traveled 70 feet before crashing into a mobile home, sending it a foot-and-a-half off its foundation.

Luckily, the driver was not hurt.

Tattooed cops

KY FRANKFORT — Considering "cultural changes" in the population, Gov. Ernie Fletcher said he's asked the Kentucky State Police to reconsider its policy prohibiting troopers from sporting visible tattoos.

The governor said he asked State Police Commissioner Mark Miller to review the agency's policy regarding tattoos.

However, Fletcher did not definitively say what the policy's fate would be.

Under the Lexington policy, officers are not allowed to have tattoos or brands that are visible while in uniform, said Lt. Mike Blanton, of the Lexington Division of Police. Officers who had tattoos before the rule went into effect in March are not allowed to get new ones, Blanton said. Prospective officers would not be eligible to join the force if they have a visible tattoo, he said.

School exec walks away

OK STILLWATER — An Oklahoma State University vice president who was criticized for his role in a controversy surrounding unauthorized access to Texas Tech University software quit.

OSU President David Schmidly said he received and accepted Gary Wiggins' letter of resignation, which takes effect July 31.

In his resignation letter, Wiggins said major changes are needed in the university's information technology system, and that the "current political environment leaves me a less than ideal choice to make them."

Wiggins' resignation comes weeks after two employees were forced to resign for their use of copyrighted software. In a June 25 report, OSU's general counsel said Brandon LaBonte and Michael Hewett "more likely than not" gained unauthorized access to Texas Tech computers to copy programming codes used for OSU's online events calendar.

Stories and Photos from wire services

Blues session



KEYSTONE/AP

Guitarists Carlos Santana, left, and U.S. bluesman Buddy Guy perform on the Stravinsky stage Monday during a jam session closing the Blues Summit night of the 38th Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland.

Broadway actors and producers reach labor deal

BY MICHAEL KUCHWARA

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The lights are on, the curtains are up and Broadway's actors and producers have a new labor agreement.

Actors' Equity Association and the League of American Theatres and Producers reached a tentative settlement Monday on a new four-year production contract, an agreement hammered out after lengthy and often acrimonious negotiations.

Specific details may not be known until Wednesday, said League spokeswoman Kelly Sullivan.

The negotiations had gone on for some time, even after the union's contract with the League expired June 27 and the threat of a strike loomed. Shows continued to play both on Broadway and on the road as both sides talked.

Although health care benefits and actors' safety were major concerns, at the center of the dispute was the question of non-Equity tours, which have been gaining in number over the last several years.

The union wants to limit these tours, which use less experienced actors who work for a lower pay scale. The League apparently was willing to stop licensing such tours but in exchange wanted salary concessions for tours of shows that were not ready-made blockbusters, musicals such as "The Lion King," "The Producers" and "Hairspray."

Over the weekend, producers of "The Boy From Oz," the musical starring Hugh Jackman as Australian entertainer Peter Allen, agreed to a temporary contract with the union, thus breaking ranks with other League members.

"The Boy From Oz," which closes Sept. 12, has been doing strong business since the June 6 Tony Awards, which featured its star, Hugh Jackman, as host. A shut-down during the show's last weeks on Broadway would have cut off profits for a musical trying to recoup its \$9 million production costs.

The Kennedy Center's production of "The Glass Menagerie," starring Sally Field, also signed an agreement, Maria Somma, an Equity spokeswoman said. The revival of the Tennessee Williams classic, now in rehearsal, begins performances in Washington, D.C., on July 17 for a run through Aug. 8.

The Kennedy Center was placed in an odd situation with "Menagerie," which is part of the Center's summer Williams festival. Even though the engagement was for a limited run, one-theater-only production, the Center agreed to terms usually reserved for Broadway or major touring productions. A strike would have shut the show down, said Tiki Davies, a Kennedy Center spokeswoman.

More than a dozen Broadway musicals went dark in March 2003 for four days after the musicians' union walked out, and theaters lost more than \$5 million in revenue.

AFTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFTS's Web site at <http://myafln.dodmedia.ods.mil>

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2004					
(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Dr. Phil	Mechanics for Kids	Nightline	Boxing Tonight Night Fights - Freddy Hernandez vs. Jesus Soto Carranza	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
9:30 Oprah Winfrey	Liberty's Kids (E)	Headline News	SpongeBob	The Simpsons	Liberty's Kids (E)
10:00 Guiding Light	Jeopardy!	Hardball With Chris Matthews	Happy Days	The Amazing Race	Jeopardy!
11:00 General Hospital	Wheel of Fortune	CHN Daybreak	ESPN News	Andromeda	General Hospital
11:30 Headline News	Advisory Block	CNN Daybreak	SportsCenter	The Amazing Race	Headline News
12:00 Judge Judy	The King of Queens	The O'Reilly Factor	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	Simple Rules
12:30 Today	The Bernie Mac Show	Good Morning America	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	The Bernie Mac Show
13:00 Today	Judge Judy	Good Morning America	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	Fear Factor
13:30 Today	Today's Margaret, Don McDemott, Kelly Slater, Sara Gerhardt.	Las Vegas	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	Las Vegas
14:00 Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	Headline News
15:00 Between the Lions	Pacific Report	Headline News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	Pacific Report
15:30 Teamo Supremo (E)	The Tonight Show	Headline News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	The Tonight Show
16:00 Mechanics for Kids	The Tonight Show	The Early Show	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	The Tonight Show
16:30 Liberty's Kids (E)	Late Show	Headline News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	Late Show
17:00 Jeopardy!	Access Hollywood	Headline News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	Access Hollywood
17:30 Headline News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	FOX News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***
18:00 APN Evening News	1991, Drama	FOX News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	1991, Drama
18:30 5 Simple Rules	1991, Drama	FOX News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	1991, Drama
19:00 The Bernie Mac Show	1991, Drama	FOX News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	1991, Drama
20:00 Fear Factor	1991, Drama	FOX News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	1991, Drama
20:30 Movie *** Evil Dead 2 ***	1987, Horror	Headline News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	1987, Horror
21:00 Las Vegas	1987, Horror	Headline News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	1987, Horror
21:30 Headline News	1987, Horror	Headline News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	1987, Horror
22:00 The Tonight Show	1987, Horror	Headline News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	1987, Horror
23:00 Late Show	1987, Horror	Headline News	MLB Baseball All-Star Game, The American League's best meet the National League's best in Minute Maid Park in Houston.	Andromeda	1987, Horror
THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2004					
00:00 (11:30) Late Show	Headline News	SportsCenter	(11:00) Movie *** Blaze ***	Headline News	(11:00) Today
01:00 Access Hollywood	Headline News	SportsCenter	Movie *** Blaze ***	Headline News	Headline News
1:00 Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Sesame Street (E)	ABC World News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	Sesame Street (E)
2:00 Play With Me Sesame	Review *** The Prince of Tides ***	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	Review *** The Prince of Tides ***
2:30 The Bernie Mac Show	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
3:00 Dr. Phil	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
3:30 Movie *** Evil Dead 2 ***	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
4:00 2 (1987) Horror Bruce Campbell, Sarah Berry	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
4:30 Headline News	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
5:00 ESPN News	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
6:00 Headline News	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
6:30 Headline News	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
7:00 Sesame Street (E)	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
7:30 Play With Me Sesame	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
8:00 Play With Me Sesame	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
8:30 Wheel of Fortune	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
9:00 Dr. Phil	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
9:30 Jackie Chan	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
10:00 Oprah Winfrey	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
10:30 Guiding Light	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
11:00 General Hospital	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
11:30 Headline News	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
12:00 Judge Judy	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
12:30 Today	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
13:00 Today	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
13:30 Today	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
14:00 Today	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
14:30 Today	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
15:00 Aaahh! Real Monsters	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
15:30 Hey Arnold!	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
16:00 Yu-Gi-Oh!	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
16:30 Jackie Chan	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
17:00 Headline News	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
17:30 Headline News	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
18:00 APN Evening News	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
18:30 Everybody/Raymond	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
19:00 Scrubs	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
19:30 Jackie Chan	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
20:00 Headline News	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
20:30 Headline News	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
21:00 ER	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
21:30 Headline News	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
22:00 Headline News	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
22:30 The Tonight Show	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama
23:00 Late Show	1991, Drama	CBS Evening News	Movie *** The Prince of Tides ***	Headline News	1991, Drama

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STARS AND STRIPES

FACES 'N' PLACES

Spider-Man
suit almost
snatched
from actor

Tobey Maguire could have
lost role in 'Spider-Man 2'
because of a bad back

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN
The Associated Press

CULVER CITY, Calif. Under cover of darkness, Tobey Maguire will wear a disguise and sneak around town.

His mission: to watch some of his own film — "Spider-Man 2" — a movie in which he's almost lost the starring role, despite the huge success of 2002's "Spider-Man."

"It's exciting. I'll sneak in one night. You want to go when the fans are crazy into the film, and that's when it's fun, to catch that energy," said the 29-year-old actor.

The star of "Seabiscuit" and "Pleasantville" says this won't be his first incognito cinema experience.

His mission: to watch some of his own film — "Spider-Man 2" — a movie in which he's almost lost the starring role, despite the huge success of 2002's "Spider-Man."

But isn't that a risky move for one of the summer's most famous faces, likely to get him mobbed if someone recognizes him? "I'll be fine," Maguire responded. "I'll wear a hat and go in, wait until it's dark, stand there for 10 minutes and leave. They'll never know."

It may not seem like much, but that's a daring move for the boyish actor with the puppy-dog eyes and tousled hair — he has a reputation for being almost pathologically withdrawing when it comes to high-pressure public exposure.

Like his superhero alter ego, Maguire rather have the secret identity of an ordinary guy?

"I AM an ordinary guy," he insisted in a recent interview at the Culver Studios lot. "I guess if the question is, 'Would I like to be anonymous in all situations?' Sometimes, sure. But I can remain somewhat anonymous, or just not go to a place where I'm going to [be recognized.] Then I'm not aware of it at all."

He shrugged. "I chose to give up my general anonymity."

Maguire came close to getting an unwelcome dose of anonymity shortly before shooting began on "Spider-Man 2," something that could have tanked his young career.

In what is becoming a famous piece of Hollywood lore, the actor nearly lost his Spider-Man suit to someone else in March 2003 because he told the producers he had a bad back.

"First I was just disclosing it — you have to fill out in-



COLUMBIA PICTURES/SBS

Tobey Maguire as Peter Parker ponders his secret identity in "Spider-Man." Maguire said he disclosed his back problems because he didn't want to derail the \$200 million film.

surance industry forms that say, 'Do you have any back problems?' This is something that I have to say, 'Yeah, I have a condition.'"

Maguire said he didn't want to be responsible for derailing a movie that costs \$200 million midway through the shoot.

"If something did happen — God forbid — and they investigated, they would learn that I knew I had back problems. If I didn't disclose it I could get in trouble. I felt like I didn't have a choice."

After finishing the physically grueling role of jockey Red Pollard in "Seabiscuit," Maguire said his chronically painful back was the worst it had been in three or four years.

"I saw all the stunts I had to do for ['Spider-Man 2']. I thought, 'Wow, this is it. I don't know if I'm going to be able to do all that stuff.'"

So his representatives took the back problem claim to director Sam Raimi and producer Laura Ziskin. They turned to a possible replacement, Jake Gyllenhaal — the similarly puppy-dog-faced star of "The Day After Tomorrow."

"It was implied if there was an injury on the set in one of these stunts, [Maguire] might become paralyzed permanently," Raimi said. "I thought, 'Well, I can't make a movie about responsibility then ask this kid to do something that might paralyze him.'"

Raimi suggested there was a disconnect between what was really wrong with Maguire's back and the dire complaints the actor's representatives — one of whom has since been replaced — took to the "Spider-Man 2" filmmakers.

Raimi said Gyllenhaal — who's also the boyfriend of "Spider-Man" co-star Kirsten Dunst — agreed to consider the role.

Then Maguire came to Raimi with a new revelation: He would be fine doing the stunts after all. And the stunts would not paralyze him.

"Pain for actors, I can deal with," Raimi said. "So all of the sudden, it changed everything." After doctors certified his fitness, Maguire was back in the tights.

Despite the debacle, Maguire ended up getting a reported \$17 million for the sequel. That's about \$13 million more than his salary on the original — which earned more than \$400 million domestically and became one of the top five biggest blockbusters in history.

There are already plans for a third "Spider-Man" movie, and No. 2 is already poised to be one of the year's biggest hits.

Key West welcomes O'Donnell cruise

Rosie O'Donnell's new cruise line is getting a warm welcome in sunny Key West, Fla.

O'Donnell will receive the key to the city this week when her cruise, billed as the first that caters to gay and lesbian families, stops at the popular island port Wednesday on its inaugural voyage, officials said.

The Norwegian Dawn's seven-day trip departs New York on Sunday and is the first cruise of R Family Vacations, the O'Donnell-backed company that promotes family-friendly vacations for gays and lesbians.

Key West has long fostered a reputation as a tolerant vacation community that is especially friendly to gays and lesbians. A street fair will provide entertainment for children on the cruise.



O'Donnell

'Route 66' star seeks marrow donor

Actor Martin Milner is seeking the public's help in finding a bone marrow donor for his leukemia-stricken daughter.

Milner, who starred in the TV series "Route 66" and "Adam-12," said a marrow transplant may be the only hope for 45-year-old Amy Milner, and no suitable donor has been found among family members or on the national registry.

Milner hopes widespread blood testing will help his daughter and others.

His daughter Amy, a single mother who lives in Encinitas, Calif., was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in February 2003.

Blood drives to find a match are scheduled in San Diego and Carlsbad, Calif., this month and one is set for the Screen Actors Guild in Los Angeles on July 16. Kent McCord, Milner's friend and "Adam-12" co-star, is heading the SAG drive.



Milner

PeopleSoft founder buys 'Bonanza' ranch

A theme park based on the 1960s television show "Bonanza" has been sold to PeopleSoft founder David Duffield for an undisclosed sum.

Duffield, who became a residential real estate developer after leaving the software giant and CEO of the software maker in 1999, was vague about his plans for the 570-acre Ponderosa Ranch.

The ranch, on Lake Tahoe's north shore in Nevada, opened in 1967 based on the NBC show Bonanza, which aired from 1959 to 1973. The park includes a mock old West town, a shooting gallery and stunt performances.

Local, state and federal officials had hoped to purchase and preserve the real estate. The U.S. Forest Service planned to use \$35 million generated by a recent auction of federal land near Las Vegas to purchase about 490 acres of the ranch.

Pat O'Brien moves to 'The Insider'

"You will never hear me ask what someone is wearing again," says Pat O'Brien, talking about his new syndicated entertainment show, "The Insider."

O'Brien confirmed that he'll host Paramount Domestic Television's new nightly half-hour newsmagazine, which premieres Sept. 13.

"It was time to move on," the former "Access Hollywood" co-anchor said in a phone interview with New York's ABC and NBC late-night programming.

"The Insider" will be "more newsy, unpredictable, with longer interviews," O'Brien said. "It will not be tabloid. If it gets tabloid, you'll see me get in my pickup truck and leave town. You can hold me to that."

A former CBS sportscenter, O'Brien, 56, will cover the Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, for MSNBC and NBC late-night programming.

Billy Bush, the East Coast correspondent for "Access Hollywood," will join Nancy O'Dell as co-anchor starting Aug. 12 from the Summer Olympics, executive director Rob Silverstein said Friday.



O'Brien

Horoscope

With the moon void of course, it's a listless, drifty, tumble-ahead-in-the-vast-desert-kind of morning. From a zen point of view, this is the perfect environment to empty your mind, making it ready for future wonders to drop in. Prize space and quiet — try to get more of it in your life. Stop loved ones from distracting you with problems and chatter.

Joyce Jillson



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(July 14). This year, an image change attracts a plethora of new opportunities. You won't even know which one to celebrate first! Now through August features many dates. The best signs for new love are Pisces and Gemini. Consider an appreciation finally comes in January. Finances perk up when you feel your work is making a difference.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You'll get a history lesson and be determined not to repeat a doomed series of steps. Relationships thrive — you're more determined than ever to make things work. Go for adventure tonight. Rent a boat, or fly a kite.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

It's so tempting to stick your nose into other people's affairs, especially because you're almost sure you can help. In fact, your influence will make a difference, but it's all in how you approach it. Be a delicate diplomat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You'll be modeling exactly what you'd like to receive from others. It's an excellent way to get what you want, though you may realize in the process just how huge the effort you're asking from others really is.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Providing a service that others truly need brings you joy overflowing. Instructional, educational and cultural purposes are your forte. If only you didn't have to keep selling yourself over and over. Love keeps you on your toes tonight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

You hate to feel supervised but don't mind at all being put in a position to supervise others. It's because you

have an eye for how to complete tasks simply and correctly, and a talent for relating to the point-informant.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You have amazing problem-solving abilities, and you'll be in a position to use them. Money is just money, so put those worries in their proper perspective, and realize what the real issue is — priorities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

A career opportunity is passed to you, but you look at it like it's debris from another planet that fell out of the sky. What do you do with it? Ask a lot of questions. Don't be afraid of sounding ignorant.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

You're feeling young, dashing and impetuous, and it reads clearly in the world. That's why you're beloved by the ladies/gentlemen. With all this new power, it's easy to be a heart-breaker. Be sensitive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Your enthusiasm for all things scrumptious and magnificent is contagious! You'll want to experience it all but must make budget-conscious choices. Tonight, if you're not working up a sweat, it's not worth your time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

It's birds of a feather flock together, you'll be hanging out with some peacocks today — you've got stuff to strut. Your personality is colorful and vibrant, and you'll want to share with people with just as much to give.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Your public profile gets a boost. You've got your finger on the pulse, which not only helps you come up with the cutting-edge solution you need but makes you the person to ask. Higher-ups may give you more responsibility.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Some situations feel hopeless. If you can't make a difference, why make an effort, right? Well, it's difficult to judge in the moment whether or not you're being influential, but in the long term, all positive actions win out. Have faith.

Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



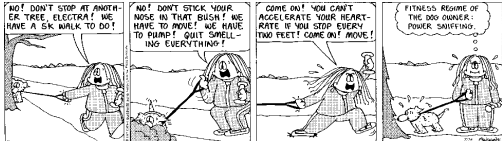
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



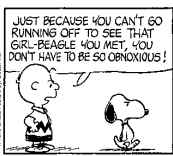
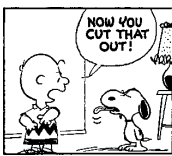
Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Illegals return to Mexico

BY AMANDA LEE MYERS
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — More than 130 illegal immigrants were flown for free to the Mexican interior Monday on the first flight of a U.S. government program aimed at curbing repeat immigration attempts.

The flights are a voluntary alternative for illegal immigrants to the usual practice of being driven back only to the border, far from their hometowns.

The first commercial airliner carrying immigrants in the test program left Tucson and landed in Mexico City in the evening. Buses were waiting to take the immigrants to local bus terminals for the trip to their home towns.

"This is a 100 percent voluntary program, so the Mexican government is just carrying out what the migrants have requested," said Bosco Marti, of Mexico's Foreign Relations Department.

The Department of Homeland Security's Interior Repatriation Program will include about two flights a day to Mexico City and the western city of Guadalajara.

Andy Adams, a spokesman with the Border Patrol's Tucson



Mexican migrants board a plane at the Tucson International Airport for their free return flight to Mexico from Tucson, Ariz., on Monday.

Factor, said about 30 of Monday's passengers were considered at high risk of dying in the desert if they attempted a second crossing. They included single women with children and the elderly.

The department is funding the program, which is estimated to cost \$12 million to \$13 million at two flights per day, each carrying up to 150 illegal immigrants, Adams said.

The pilot program is to end by Sept. 30. Then the department and the Mexican government will evaluate it.

The new program follows a more controversial one in which border officials involuntarily returned 5,600 migrants caught in Arizona to Mexico through border ports in Texas.

The so-called lateral repatriation program, which lasted about

three weeks in 2003, was designed to move the immigrants far from their smugglers and reduce their chances of re-crossing the border. Immigrants rights groups said the program was expensive, ineffective and simply delayed migrants.

Robin Hoover, president of Humane Borders, a group that puts water in the desert for illegal crossers, said he has concerns about the new program.

"Overall, I would say this is a ridiculous way to approach this problem. It uses a phenomenal amount of resources and achieves little results," he said.

He conceded the program could benefit some immigrants. "It may actually save a few lives, and we have to give them credit for that," he said.

Associated Press Writer Will Weissert in Mexico City contributed to this report.

'Bad cholesterol' guideline lowered

BY JAMIE STENGLE
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Health officials are issuing a stern message to people who have recently had a heart attack: Lower your "bad cholesterol" to rock-bottom levels.

"The concept here is that lower is better with respect to cholesterol," said Dr. Steven Nissen, cardiologist at the Cleveland Clinic, who is among those who have studied the issue.

"It'll be hard to get there, but we do have aggressive drugs," he said.

New guidelines issued Monday for very high-risk heart patients call for lowering their so-called bad cholesterol, LDL, to 70. The previous guideline was 100.

Heart patients in need of drastic measures can use statin drugs — including Lipitor — in higher doses or combine statins, which block formation of cholesterol, with drugs that block cholesterol's uptake by the body.

The guidelines, in Monday's issue of the American Heart Association journal *Circulation*, are not a complete surprise.

Recent studies have shown that lives can be saved by a drastic lowering of LDL in people who have had recent heart attacks.

Created by the National Cholesterol Education Program, the guidelines are endorsed by the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. A panel of the education program examined five major studies involving cholesterol-lowering medicines.

Every year, 1.2 million people in America have a new or repeat heart attack. Dr. Scott Grundy, lead author of the guidelines, said that as of 2001 there were about 36 million people who could benefit from drugs to lower their cholesterol.

On the trail of 'Tarzan's' tiger

Big cat escaped caged compound of former actor

The Associated Press

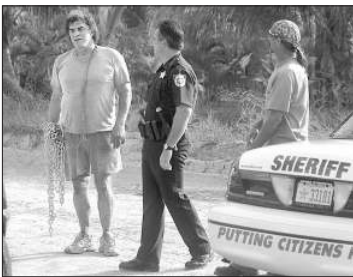
LOXAHATCHEE, Fla. — A 600-pound tiger eluded capture for a second day Tuesday after escaping from the compound of its owner, a former actor who once played Tarzan.

Deputy sheriffs and state game officials set up a perimeter around a search area and started beating the bush again at daybreak, said Willie Puz, spokesman for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The 6-year-old tiger was spotted several times, most recently around 7:30 a.m. Tuesday by a woman who said it was near her back yard. Officials hoped it would simply grow hungry and return home in search of food, Puz said.

The tiger was reported missing Monday afternoon from the home of Steve Sipek, who played Tarzan decades ago under the screen name Steve Hawkes, said Paul Miller, spokesman for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. Sipek has played the tiger since it was a cub.

When the first deputies arrived on the scene Monday, the cat jumped on top of their car, Miller said. Puz said searchers who spotted it several times Monday evening were never close enough to shoot it with tranquilizer darts.



DAMON HIGGINS, THE PALM BEACH POST/AP

After picking up several large chains and other supplies, Steve Sipek, left, the owner of an escaped tiger, chats with an officer Monday in Royal Palm Beach, Fla. Officers closed the road to search for the tiger.

Though law enforcement officers were available to escort nervous residents away from the area, Puz said officials offered to encourage people to "go about their normal business."

Sipek has another tiger, two lions, a black leopard and a cougar on his property, the Palm Beach Post reported. The cats, mostly castoffs from zoos, are usually kept in a maze-like series of interlocking cages.

In February 2002, a 750-pound tiger mauled a woman who was helping Sipek during a photo shoot at his compound. She was bitten on the head.

In 1985, a tame, three-legged black leopard belonging to Sipek eluded searchers for nearly three days before being found wandering near a fence on his property.

Sipek said at the time that he had been devoted to the big cats ever since one pulled him from a fire during the filming of a Tarzan movie.

According to the Internet Movie Database, "Steve Hawkes" played Tarzan in a series of Spanish-language Tarzan movies around 1970 and was called Zang of the Jungle when they were released in English. He retired from acting after an on-set accident, it said.

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In long jump, more trial and error for Jones

Seventh-place effort enough to reach finals but short of embattled star's expectations

BY BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Marion Jones' smile has long since faded. Stern-faced and silent, she is struggling just to make the U.S. Olympic team.

Two days after she failed to make the team in the 100, Jones was a stunning seventh in the long jump Monday night in the U.S. Olympic track and field trials.

Her best effort of 20 feet, 11½ inches was more than a foot shorter than what she jumped a decade ago at Thousand Oaks, Calif., High School.

Old Sissy led the qualifiers at 21.9. Grace Upshaw, the only other U.S. jumper who has met the Olympic standard, was second at 21.5½. The 12 advanced to Thursday's finals.

Jones' first jump was her best, followed by marks of 20-9¼ and 20-½. The odds favor Jones making the Athens team in the long jump because she is one of only two U.S. jumpers who have met the Olympic qualifying standard of 21-11½.

If she isn't in the top three in Thursday's finals, and those who beat her fail to reach the qualifying mark by Aug. 9, Jones would make the U.S. team.

That's not the route the long jump

bronze medalist in the 2000 Olympics expected to take.

But nothing is easy these days for the embattled track and field star who four years ago became the first athlete in the sport to win five Olympic medals, three of them gold.

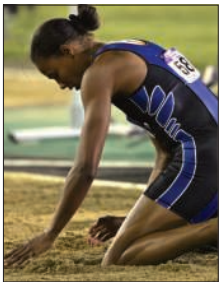
Jones never passed through the "mixed zone," where she was mobbed by reporters and television crews on Saturday. Instead, she slipped out through a back gate.

While Jones, who also is entered in the 200 meters in the trials, tolled under the glare of an investigation by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, there were triumphs on the track at Hornet Stadium on Monday night.

Jearl Miles-Clark earned a trip to her fifth Olympics with a victory in the women's 800 meters. Miles-Clark went to the 1988 Games in the relay and did not run. She has competed in the past three Olympics.

"She deserved it. I'm so proud of her," her sister-in-law Hazel Clark said. "It's her last Olympic trials, she's so tough. I admire her so much. She represents a clean athlete and has a lot of dignity, great morals. She is my role model."

Hazel Clark was third in the race, earning a second trip to the Olympics. Nicole Teeter was second. Hazel Clark got a big



Marion Jones, whose best jump Monday was 20 feet, 11½ inches, is one of two Americans who have met the Olympic qualifying standard of 21-11½, making her a favorite to qualify for the event in the Athens Games.

surprise as she left the track when boyfriend Weston Riley proposed to her.

She said a loud "yes" as he hugged her and lifted her off the ground.

Shayne Culpepper, wife of U.S. marathoner Alan Culpepper, won the women's 5,000 in 15:07.41, edging three-time defending U.S. champion Maria Runtun by seven-hundredths of a second. Shalane Flanagan was third.

The last of the "BALCO Four" was eliminated from competition.

Alvin Harrison failed to make the finals in the 400 meters, then threatened to sue

USA Track & Field for "bias and discrimination." Harrison is one of four track athletes facing a possible lifetime ban for doping even though they have not tested positive.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency charged the four based on evidence gathered in the criminal investigation of the Bay Area Laboratory Cooperative (BALCO). All four have denied the allegations and hearings are pending.

Before Harrison's departure, Jones' boyfriend and world record holder Tim Montgomery failed to make the team in the 100 meters and Chryste Gaines didn't make the finals in the women's 100. Jones has not been accused of wrongdoing by USADA but remains under investigation.

The other accused athlete, Michelle Collins, withdrew from the meet, citing a hamstring injury. Nineteen-year-old Sanya Richards led qualifiers in Collins' event, the 400 meters, at a personal-best 50.22 seconds Monday night.

The latest in a series of collegiate athletes to shine in the trials was Jonathan Johnson of Texas Tech, who won the 800 meters in 1:44.77. Khadevis Robinson was second and Derrick Peterson third. The favorite, David Krummenacker, was fourth. The top three in each event make the U.S. team. Krummenacker had not planned to run the 1,500, but said he might change his mind.

Kindergarten teacher Tisha Waller won the high jump at 6-6.

Another collegian, Chaunte Howard of Georgia Tech, was second, followed by Amy Acuff, who earned her third Olympic berth.

Aretha Hill won the women's discus at 206-6. She made the Olympic team eight years ago, but just missed in 2000.

James Parker, part of the Air Force's world class athlete program, won the men's hammer at 254-6.

The trials take a two-day break before resuming Thursday.

Phelps fails to Peirsol on 200 back

BY BETH HARRIS

The Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. — The challenges just keep coming for Michael Phelps.

The world's best swimmer couldn't keep pace with Aaron Peirsol leaving the final turn in the 200-meter backstroke, and lost for the first time in the U.S. Olympic swim trials Monday night.

Peirsol pulled away on the final lap to win in a world record 1 minute, 54.74 seconds — breaking his own mark of 1:55.15 set two years ago. Phelps earned the other Olympic berth, finishing second in 1:55.86.

"Having a loss like that will definitely fuel me a little bit more," Phelps said. "I don't like to lose."

His next challenge comes Tuesday night in the 100 butterfly final, the last of Phelps' six individual races during the eight-day trials. Like the 200 back, it will be another match race: Phelps vs. world-record holder Ian Crocker.

Phelps was the fastest semifinal qualifier in 51.25 seconds. Phelps won his heat in 51.89.

"I love going fast. I love surprising myself," Crocker said. "That's my thrill. I'm real interested to see how I can go, and I'm real interested to see where Michael is at, too."

Their rivalry was established

during last year's world championships, where Crocker set the world mark of 50.98 in upsetting Phelps, who had previously owned the record.

"I'm really excited," said Phelps. "Hopefully with some good rest, him and I and the rest of the field will have a good race."

Phelps kept a photo of Crocker on his bedroom wall as motivation. He may need to add one of Peirsol, who has defeated him in their past three meetings, including twice at a meet in Santa Clara in May.

"I don't ever want to lose my race," said Peirsol, the silver medalist in Sydney who hasn't lost the 200 back since then. "I love that thing."

Peirsol and Phelps were both under world-record pace for the first three laps, matching each other nearly stroke for stroke.

Peirsol came off the final turn faster, and Phelps said that cost him the race.

"It's going to make me go back to the drawing board and try to change some things," Phelps said. "It gave me sort of a message. I knew what I'm trying to do isn't easy. No one said it was."

Phelps bounced back to win the 200 individual medley, making him the first American male to qualify for five individual swim-



Michael Phelps, who lost his first race in the U.S. Olympic swim trials on Monday, is the first American male to qualify for five individual Olympic swimming events. Phelps won the 200 IM on Monday night.

ming events in an Olympics. It was his third race of the night, all in just over an hour.

At the Athens Games, he wants to break Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals.

"If he gets five gold medals, I won't be the spoiler," Peirsol said. "He still would have done something special."

Phelps won the 200 IM in 1:56.71 — 0.77 seconds off his own world record. Ryan Lochte took the second Olympic berth in 1:59.71.

Amanda Beard is going to her third Olympics, having qualified in three events. She won the 200 breaststroke by nearly 5 seconds in a world-record time of 2:22.44.

That broke the mark of 2:22.96 set by Australia's Leisel Jones, who had taken the record from Beard last week.

Caroline Bruce was the surprise runner-up, earning her first trip to the Olympics in 2:27.22. Former Olympians Kristy Kowal (third), Megan Quann (sixth) and Staciana Stitts (eighth) failed to



Aaron Peirsol broke his own world record Monday in the 200-meter backstroke (1:54.74).

qualify for Athens. Tara Kirk, already going to the Olympics in the 100 breaststroke, finished fifth.

There was another upset in the 100 freestyle when Kara Lynn Joyce held off Natalie Coughlin by four-hundredths of a second. Joyce won with a time of 54.38. Coughlin was second in 54.42.

They each qualified for the Olympics. Jenny Thompson was fifth at 55.03, but could still land a spot on the relay team.

Maritza Correia finished fourth and became the first black woman to make the U.S. swimming team. She'll be eligible for the relay.

"It's a great honor," Correia said. "I hope I'm the first of many."

Recker takes the long way home

Indiana native tries to resurrect basketball career at Pacers camp

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Luke Recker watched prep stars and college underclassmen dominate the early part of the NBA Draft this year.

It wasn't too long ago that Recker, a high school All-American, figured to be following a similar path.

"When you're coming out of high school as an All-American, you're thinking, 'Oh I'm staying one, two years like everybody else now and I'm going to be a lottery pick,'" Recker said Monday. "And that's just not reality for a lot of us. It'd be great that way. But some people have to take a different route and I've definitely taken a different route."

After two college transfers, a serious car accident and stints in Italy and the NBDL, Recker is back home in Indiana, hoping to resurrect a once-promising career at the Pacers' rookie/free agent camp.

Recker was dubbed the next big thing when he came to Indiana University in 1997. He never fit in with the Hoosiers and transferred to Arizona after averaging 16.1 points as a sophomore.

That's when his life changed. Recker was driving with his girlfriend at the time and her brother in Durango, Colo., on July 10, 1999, when he was in a car accident with a drunken driver. His girlfriend was partially paralyzed and Recker had to have part of his left ear reattached.

There's certainly been a lot of things that he's gone through over the last couple years, and the fact that he's still at it, still improving his game are really good signs for his career," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said.

Recker never played a game



Since playing basketball at Indiana as a sophomore, Luke Recker has been through two transfers, a car accident and a knee injury. He's trying to earn a spot on the Pacers roster at rookie/free agent camp.

with Arizona, transferring to Iowa, where he averaged 18.1 points as a junior before a knee injury sidelined him for most of his senior year.

He got a tryout with the Miami Heat as an undrafted rookie and was cut on the final day of training camp.

"I was very close, too close," Recker said. "Alonzo Mourning was sick with his kidneys, so they had to pick a big guy up and release a guard, and that was me."

When asked if that topped the list of disappointing moments in his life, Recker chuckled.

"This is a game, it's my career, but there's a lot more important things in life," said Recker, who still has a deep scar under his left ear. "Unfortunately, that's the way this business works. You can't hold grudges, you just have to go back to work."

Recker played one season with the Asheville Altitude in the NBA's developmental league,

then averaged 16.7 points last season for an elite team in Roseto, Italy.

It was a far cry from where he assumed he would be at this point in his career. But he says he's better for it.

"It makes you tougher," Recker said. "You're very spoiled in college, especially at the Big Ten level. You receive nice accommodations, everything's first class when you're in the Big Ten."

"In minor league basketball, you're busing a lot and not staying in the nicest hotels. It just makes you stronger."

All that led up to Monday, and Recker found himself wearing a Pacers jersey, taking jump shots in an arena about two hours from where he grew up.

"It does feel like home," Recker said after the morning workout. "I love the state of Indiana. There's some great people here — my family and friends. So it's good to be home again."

As good as it does feel, Recker is far from comfortable. He knows he's a long shot to make the roster of a team that won an NBA-best 61 games during the regular season.

His first step is to impress Carlisle in this week's mini-camp before heading to Utah for summer league play.

So far, so good, Carlisle said.

"He has some terrific tools to play the game at a high level," Carlisle said. "The important thing about him being here is that he's here because he's a good basketball player, not because he's an Indiana guy. We don't do that."

While he isn't anywhere close to securing a roster spot with his hometown Pacers, Recker can't help but smile when considering the possibilities.

"Ideally this would be a perfect place," he said. "But I don't want to get ahead of myself. I just want to go out and work hard and see where it takes me."



Carlos Boozer

Source: Cavs offer Boozer one-year deal

BY TOM WITHERS

The Associated Press

Making a last-ditch effort to retain Carlos Boozer, the Cleveland Cavaliers have offered him a one-year contract worth about \$5 million amid reports he will part ways with his agent, The Associated Press has learned.

The power forward's reputation has taken a beating over the past week after he stunned Cleveland by agreeing to a \$68 million offer from the Utah Jazz. Days earlier, the Cavs declined to exercise a \$695,000 option on Boozer's contract — thereby making him a free agent — in the belief he would accept a 6-year, \$41 million deal to remain in Cleveland.

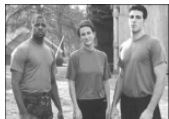
But the move backfired when Boozer reneged on a verbal understanding with the Cavs and decided to take \$27 million more from Utah.

Boozer's decision has been heavily criticized around the NBA, with agents and team executives saying it has undermined the mutual trust many of them have for one another.

If Boozer accepts the Cavs' new offer, which was confirmed to the AP by a source close to the negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity, he would put himself in position to be eligible next summer for an even larger contract than the ones Utah and Cleveland have offered.

Boozer and his agent, Rob Pelinka, did not return phone calls Monday.

Pelinka's boss, Art Tellem, did not return a call seeking comment on reports that his agency, SFX, has decided to part ways with Boozer in the wake of the contract fiasco.



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Source: McDyess agrees with Pistons

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Antonio McDyess has accepted the Detroit Pistons' four-year, \$23 million contract offer, a source told The Associated Press on Monday.

The NBA champion Pistons will be able to sign the 6-foot-9 forward on Wednesday when a two-week player movement moratorium expires. The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a fifth year is included in the deal but it is not guaranteed.

McDyess has averaged 16.7 points, 8.5 rebounds and 1.6 blocks during his eight-year career, which has been plagued by injuries since the 2000-01 season.

He played 42 games last season — 24 in Phoenix and 18 with New York — and averaged 6.9 points and 6.1 rebounds.

McDyess played just 10 games for Denver during the 2001-02 season — one season after averaging 20.8 points and 12.1 rebounds



— and missed all of the 2002-03 season with knee problems.

He will likely fill the void left by reserve center Mehmet Okur, a restricted free agent who has agreed to sign with the Utah Jazz. Detroit is not expected to match the offer to Okur because its top priority is signing Rasheed Wallace, who helped the Pistons knock off the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA Finals.

Miami's Fundy, Plund get contract extensions

MIAMI — With the Miami Heat on the verge of acquiring Shaquille O'Neal, the team signed coach Stan Van Gundy to a multi-year extension Monday.

General Manager Randy Pridemore also received an extension.

The trade for O'Neal could become official Wednesday. He's expected to join the Heat in a deal that also includes Lamar Odom, Brian Grant, Caron Butler and a first-round draft pick.

Van Gundy, who took over when Pat Riley stepped down last October, led the Heat to their first postseason berth in three years.

Heat owner Arison: Team not for sale

MIAMI — In the wake of a report that Michael Jordan is interested in buying the Miami Heat, team owner Micky Arison said Monday the franchise is not for sale.

Arison was out of town but responded to the report through a Heat spokesman.

According to The Chicago Tribune, an unidentified source said Jordan has been in discussions with the Heat about joining the organization as an owner. A representative of Jordan's did not refute the report.

"Michael has said repeatedly that he continues to explore opportunities to return to the NBA in a majority ownership capacity," Estee Portnoy, Jordan's spokeswoman said in a statement. "While we won't comment on speculation, Michael's interest remains particularly strong."

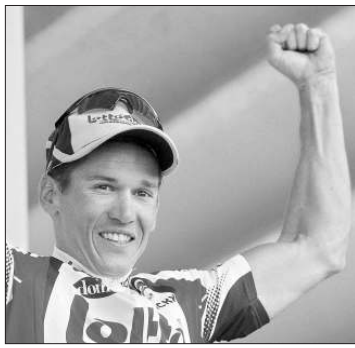
Hawks sign first-round picks Childress, Smith

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Hawks said Monday they signed their two first-round draft picks — forwards Josh Childress and Josh Smith.

Childress, the sixth overall pick in the draft last month, was an All-American last season at Stanford as a junior.

The 6-9 Smith, the No. 17 overall pick, played last season at Oak Hill Academy in Virginia.

According to the NBA's rookie salary scale, Childress' 3-year deal will be worth about \$6.7 million, while Smith's will be worth about \$3.4 million.



Australian Robbie McEwen has won two stages in this year's Tour de France, and hopes to win the green jersey given to the top sprinter.

McEwen wins ninth stage

Armstrong stays with pack, in sixth overall

BY JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

GUERET, France — Robbie McEwen of Australia used a burst of speed before the finish line Tuesday to win the ninth stage of the Tour de France, while five-time champion Lance Armstrong finished in the main pack.

Head down, McEwen passed at least 10 riders down the stretch, racing along the barriers and crossing the line just ahead of Norwegian champion Thor Hushovd, becoming the first two-stage winner of this Tour.

"It's a beautiful victory," said McEwen, who rode with a sore knee and back injuries he got in a crash last week. "I gave all of my energy to that sprint."

Armstrong, trying for a record sixth straight title, finished comfortably in the main pack in 44th place at the end of the undulating, hilly stage in central France. Jan Ullrich, his main rival, was 25th. Both finished in the same time as McEwen's 3 hours, 32 minutes and 55 seconds.

Frenchman Thomas Voeckler retained the overall lead. He leads sixth-placed Armstrong by 9 minutes, 35 seconds. Ullrich trails the Texan by 55 seconds.

"We just sat on the wheel, took it easy. We didn't have to take any responsibility," Armstrong said. The stage "was fine, didn't really surprise me at all."

Sprain's Inigo Landaluz and Italian rider Filippo Simeoni, who broke away and rode in front for most of the race, were overtaken by McEwen, Hushovd and the chasing pack of riders in the dash for the line.

McEwen said his knee was so painful Monday, a rest day, that he had to stop six times during a training ride. "I just hope on Tuesday thinking, 'I just hope I survive.'"

After Tuesday's victory, he

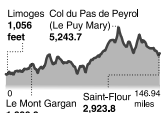
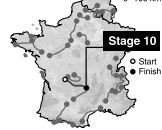
91st TOUR DE FRANCE

The road climbs

The mountain stages begin with the Limoges to Saint-Flour trek. The stage climbs an 8 percent gradient to Col du Pas de Peyrol.

Stage 10

Wednesday, July 14 0 100 mi
0 100 km



SOURCE: Tour de France

rated his condition overall as "still very good."

"I don't want to sound like I'm a one-legged man," he said. "After today, I feel like I've been — at least in the first half of the Tour — the best sprinter."

The 32-year-old McEwen also won a sprint finish in stage two to Namur in Belgium. He won the green jersey as best sprinter in 2002, and has five stage victories in seven Tours. He is the current holder of the green jersey — and hopes to win it at the finish in Paris on July 25.

Hushovd, the Norwegian who won a sprint finish in Sunday's stage, zoomed up the left of the finish straight, while McEwen stayed right, skimming the barri-

ers. They were neck-to-neck at the line, with McEwen just ahead.

The two breakaway riders, Landaluz and Simeoni, surged ahead of the pack 23 1/2 miles from the start and built up a lead of around 10 minutes.

The pack began to chase with about 42 miles to go, and gradually closed the gap. As they rounded the last corner to the finish, Landaluz and Simeoni were within sight of chasers. Their tired legs couldn't get them over the line ahead of faster sprinters.

The 99 1/2-mile ride, the shortest of this Tour with the exception of time-trial courses, started in Saint-Leonard-de-Noblat, the hometown of retired French great Raymond Poulidor.

On Wednesday, riders embark on the longest, and so far toughest, ride of the Tour, a 147-mile trek with nine climbs — including a 3 1/2-mile ascent up a gradient of eight percent.

"It will be hard, especially if the race starts aggressively like it did today," Armstrong said. "A lot of people will be going home if it starts like that."



Lance Armstrong, left, is 9 minutes, 35 seconds behind Tour leader Thomas Voeckler.

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Golf, tennis championships scheduled

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

The Army and Air Force will hold European championship golf tournaments in the next three weeks.

The Army's championship is set for July 20-22 at the Heidelberg Golf Course in Ostersheim, Germany. The event will be a 54-hole, medal-play tournament.

The Air Force tournament is scheduled for Aug. 1-5 at Lakenheath's Beckland Pines Golf Course in England. It also uses the 54-hole, medal-play format.

Both tournaments are open to U.S. Defense Department ID-cardholders who are 18 or older. The entry fee for the Army event — which will award championships in men's open and senior and women's open divisions — is \$35.

Military sports

Men's open golfers must have an established handicap of 15 or better. There is no handicap requirement for seniors, age 55 and older, or women.

For more information about the Army tournament, call DSN 379-6139 or commercial, +49-(0) 6202-80-6139.

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe fee is \$20 (\$50 for non-Air Force annual greens fee holders). Winners will be awarded in men's open, senior's (30-39 years) and master's divisions (40 years and older) and women's division. The Air Force will send its active-duty winners to the Air Force trial camp at Colorado Springs, Colo., Sept. 12-18.

Point of contact for the Air

Force tourney is Derek Turner at DSN 226-2223, commercial, +44-1638-52-2223, or e-mail at: derek.turner@lakenheath.af.mil.

Tennis

The top military tennis players will be in competition later this month in the U.S. Forces Europe championships, to be held July 23-25 at Patrick Henry Village, Heidelberg.

There is no entry fee for the tournament, which offers championships in women's singles, men's open, senior's (30-39 years) and master's (40 years and older).

There are also titles on the line in men's and mixed doubles.

For tennis information, call Adel Ismail at DSN 388-9037, or civilian at +49-(0)6221-338-9037 or (0)171-517-8520.

Mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mail.strips.esd.mil

Ranking the NFL's offseason moves

By RICK GOSSELIN

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — NFL championship have always been won on the field during the season. But teams historically have been able to stack the deck during the offseason.

Tampa Bay traded several premium draft picks in 2002 for coach Jon Gruden, who directed the Buccaneers to their first Super Bowl championship that season.

Baltimore signed free-agent tight end Shannon Sharpe in 2000. St. Louis traded for running back Marshall Faulk in 1999, and the Cowboys signed free-agent cornerback Deion Sanders in 1995. All were Pro Bowl additions — and all three teams went on to win Super Bowls that season.

Make the right move in March and you may wind up with a Super Bowl ring in February.

The Washington Redskins certainly like so. The Redskins have been among the NFL's busiest teams this offseason. That's been their history under the ownership of Dan Snyder.

With the Skins coming off a fourth consecutive non-playoff season, Snyder made his boldest move yet — bolder even than the signing of future Hall of Famers Sanders and Bruce Smith in 2000.

This offseason, Snyder lured a current Hall of Famer to Redskins, hiring the coach back as head coach. He's the 14th-winningest coach in NFL history. He also won three Super Bowls with three different quarterbacks.

In a salary-cap world, a greater premium has been placed on the head coach. Stability on the sideline can overcome a lack of stability on the field. Witness the quick turnarounds at Kansas City and Dallas after Dick Vermeil and Pat Parcells were coaxed out of retirement.

Snyder invested \$25 million in Gibbs. It figures to be money well spent. Gibbs represents the best offseason addition in the NFL.

Actually, put him down as 1A. The addition of Pro Bowl half-back Clinton Portis ranks as 1B.

He's already a great NFL runner, having rushed for 1,500 yards in each of his first two NFL seasons. His new coach can make Portis an even better runner.

Gibbs likes to run. At 21, Portis has been able to generate a ground game no matter how talented his ball carrier.

Gibbs made a 200-yard rusher out of unheralded Timmy Smith in the 1988 Super Bowl and a 1,200-yard rusher out of an aging Eric Decker in 2002. At 21, Portis is still at the front end of his career. He's arguably the most talented back Gibbs has coached.

Clinton Portis is a running combination in '04 and thereafter.

But the Redskins weren't the only team that swung for the fences this offseason. Here are eight more additions that round out the NFL's Top 10 offseason moves:

1A. Joe Gibbs

1B. Clinton Portis

3. Terrell Owens, WR, Philadelphia: The Eagles have tried for three years to win on offense with a star quarterback and 10 role players. Having lost three straight NFC title games, Andy Reid decided it was time to bring in another star to ease Donovan McNabb's burden. Owens has caught 51 TD passes in his past four seasons. Suddenly, McNabb has a go-to guy.

4. Gunther Cunningham, defensive coordinator, Kansas City: Cunningham spoiled Kansas City fans with a physical, attacking defense in the 1990s that made the Chiefs annual Super Bowl contenders. But under Greg Robinson the past three years, the Chiefs played a softer, finesse style that sank to 29th in the NFL in defense in 2003. Now Cunningham is back, and so are those Super Bowl aspirations.

5. Corey Dillon, RB, New England: Bill Belichick won two Super Bowls in the last three years with a sub par running game. Dillon gives the Patriots what Owens gives the Eagles — someone to ease the pressure on an overburdened quarterback.

If Belichick can convince Dillon it's a team game, pencil in the Patriots as favorites to repeat.

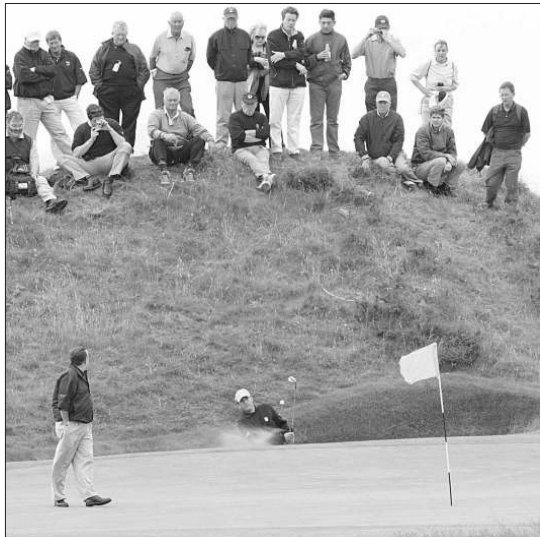
6. Damien Woody, DE, Detroit: Woody was the best blocker on the best team in football in 2003. But when New England won the NFL's best overall season last February, the Patriots decided against overpaying to keep him. So he brings his talent and experience to one of the NFL's best offense out on the 2003 postseason. Pound-for-pound, Woody is one of the toughest players in the NFL. He's only 5'9 and just comes off a 94-rack season for the AFC's best defense (Buffalo). The Vikes spent \$35 million on true grit.

7. Antoine Winfield, CB, Minnesota: The Vikings lacked grit on defense, which explained why the NFL's best offense lost out on the 2003 postseason. Pound-for-pound, Winfield is one of the toughest players in the NFL. He's only 5'9 and just comes off a 94-rack season for the AFC's best defense (Buffalo). The Vikes spent \$35 million on true grit.

8. Ted Garcia, CB, Cleveland: A controversy at quarterback produced a lack of continuity on offense, which sank the Browns from playoff contention in 2002 to last-place finisher in 2003. With the arrival of Garcia and departure of Tim Couch, there is no longer a controversy. Garcia brings Pro Bowl presence to a huddle that sorely needs some leadership.

9. Pete Rodriguez, special teams coach, Jacksonville: The Jaguars fielded the worst special teams in the NFL in Jacksonville's debut season as head coach. So he fired his inexperienced Bill Bates and hired the experienced Rodriguez, one of the league's best in the kicking game. In the past three seasons, Rodriguez coached special teams that led the NFL at Washington and Seattle.

10. Kerry Collins, QB, Oakland: Al Davis has a fondness for long ball, and Collins has the arm to return that weapon to the Oakland offense. He has a string of four consecutive 3,000-yard seasons. He wasn't the problem in New York, but he can be a big part of the solution in Oakland.



Spectators watch at Royal Troon's eighth hole, known as the "Postage Stamp" for its small green, as Ben Curtis, last year's British Open winner, hits out of a bunker known as "the coffin" during a practice round.

Troon: British course is back-loaded

TRON, FROM BACK PAGE

Facts & figures

Event: 13th British Open
Dates: July 15-18
Royal Troon
Length: 7,175 yards
Par: 72
Format: 72 holes, stroke play
Prize: 4 million pounds
Winner's share: 750,000 pounds
Defending champion: Ben Curtis

Last year: Ben Curtis closed with a 2-under 69 for a one-shot victory over Thomas Bjorn and Vijay Singh, with Tiger Woods and Davis Love III another shot behind.

Curtis, No. 396 in the world ranking, became the first player since Francis Quimby in the 1913 U.S. Open to win the first major he entered. He only qualified by his tie for 15th in the Western Open, his best finish yet in his rookie year. Curtis was the only player to break par at Royal St. George's, finishing at 1-under 70.

Open champions at Royal Troon: Arthur Hain (1921), Bobby Locke (1950), Arnold Palmer (1962), Tom Weiskopf (1972), Tom Watson (1982), Mark Calzaghe (1989), Justin Lee (1997).

Anniversary: Seve Ballesteros won the first of his five majors 25 years ago at the British Open, playing one shot out of the parking lot at Royal Lytham & St. Annes to beat Jack Nicklaus and Ben Crenshaw by three shots.

Quoteworthy: "More people probably dream of going to the Masters, but I think more people have grown up around the world seeing the Open Championship. It's the biggest tournament on the world." — Davis Love III.

There is one trick to Royal Troon — get your birdies while you can.

The first seven holes run south along the Firth of Clyde with a prevailing breeze at the players' backs. The front nine is a par 36 at only 3,462 yards, and even the 601-yard sixth hole — the longest in British Open history — can be reached in two by most players.

The back nine is dead into the wind, and is a par 35 at 3,713 yards.

"If you're even par after the front nine, you think you've lost something," Love said. "And if you're even par on the back, you think you did pretty good."

Royal Troon is just north of Prestwick, where the British Open was held the first 12 years and Colin Montgomerie is famous for saying, "If you're not under par after nine holes at Troon, you may as well go to the clubhouse at Prestwick and have lunch."

Goosen's victory at Shinnecock Hills kept one streak alive: Americans have not swept the four majors since Craig Stadler (Masters), Tom Watson (U.S. Open and British Open) and Raymond Floyd (PGA) in 1982.

But they have enjoyed great success at Royal Troon, five straight victories dating to Arnold Palmer in 1962. Justin Leonard won the claret jug last time the Open was held at Troon in 1997, coming from five shots off the lead.

The Best Americans hope used to be Woods, but that's not necessarily the case anymore.

drive the ball in the fairway," Nick Price said. "From all I've seen now the last five months, his off-the-green game is so erratic, and there's no pattern to it because he's losing it right and left. Until such time as he starts getting the ball in the fairway, he's going to struggle."

"You have to be a great driver of the ball to win major championships," Mickelson said.

Mickelson has never finished in the top 10 in a British Open, although he has never played this well. And he has never been this excited about playing in golf's oldest championship.

"In the past, I felt not as comfortable with the type of shot that I needed to hit or the way to hit them," Mickelson said.

"Many of the shots that I have worked on throughout the year are shots I'll be expecting to use at Troon."

Woods narrowly made the cut in the Western Open and wound up in a tie for seventh, another top 10 that only made his game look better than it is. He was working on the low stinger shot that figures to come in handy in the British Open. But Woods, who won at St. Andrews at a record 19 under par, said British links require a variety of shots.

"You can get suckered into hitting the low ball all day," he said. "The problem is you start doing that, and then you can't get the ball in the air. One of the things I work on for the British Open is trying to hit the ball really high and really low, so I've got a whole arsenal I can work with out there."

For A's Mulder, it's substance over style

All-Star starter's lack of flash is more than offset by AL's best record

BY CHRIS HAFT

San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News

SAN JOSE, Calif. — By nearly any standard, Mark Mulder is among the brightest of the All-Stars who have gathered in Houston. But the A's left-hander won't swagger into Tuesday night's start for the American League thinking he ranks among baseball's pitching royalty.

"There are guys who have been doing it a lot longer and been a lot more successful," Mulder said.

"You get a little nervous around those guys — 'nervous' is the wrong way to put it. But just walking into the clubhouse is kind of intimidating," Mulder said.

Mulder lacks the big-name reputation of Randy Johnson, Curt Schilling or Roger Clemens. Although his years in the major leagues (five) falls short of the number of Cy Young Awards won by Clemens (six), Mulder has achieved more in recent seasons than almost any of his peers.

Since the start of the 2001 season, Mulder has won 67 games, more than any other major leaguer — including Schilling (64), Johnson (61) and Clemens (60). With a 12-2 record this season, he's tied with Texas' Kenny Rogers for the big-league lead in victories. Mulder leads the AL in complete games (four) and innings (131½) and owns the league's

fourth-best ERA (3.21).

But figures don't accurately reflect why Mulder has made his second All-Star team in a row and is rivaling the game's top pitchers for supremacy. Talk to Mulder about the unofficial yet widely used statistic known as a "quality start" — three runs or fewer allowed in six innings or more — and he'll ridicule you. Talk to him about the quality of Oakland's ability to compete when he's on the mound, and you'll get a sense of what drives him.

"Whenever he gets in trouble, the damage is limited. He has a great knack for that. You see a lot of other guys panic. ... He gets the bases loaded and it's a one-run inning."

Damian Miller
Oakland catcher

outings of the season fell short of the "quality start" standard. On June 29 he yielded four runs and nine hits in seven innings against Anaheim. Mulder left the game trailing 1-3, but he and the A's prevailed on Bobby Crosby's two-run single off Francisco Rodriguez in the bottom of the seventh.

"I was proud of that start," Mulder said. "I didn't have my best stuff. I didn't have great control. I gave up four runs, but I battled. To me, that was the bottom line.



Oakland Athletics left-hander Mark Mulder, the American League starter in Tuesday's All-Star Game, is relatively unknown despite winning more games than any other pitcher since 2001.

that I battled my butt off and we ended up winning."

Mulder's "battles" aren't furious. He projects a calm image on

the mound, eschewing the grunting or fist-pumping of other hurlers.

Although he routinely dispatch-

es opponents with a minimum of pitches and therefore throws some of the fastest games in the majors, he never rushes through his task, recalling the John Woodcock maxim, "Be quick but don't hurry."

"He knows how to win," A's catcher Damian Miller said. "Whenever he gets in trouble, the damage is limited. He has a great knack for that. You see a lot of other guys panic. They get in trouble, and it's a three- or four-run inning. He gets the bases loaded and it's a one-run inning."

Said Mulder, "The minute you start getting in trouble, you can't try to do new stuff. You can't try to make a nasty pitch or 'paint the black' because that's when you fall behind. You have to stick with what works for you and go after hitters like there's nobody on base."

Unlike many young pitchers, Mulder, 26, is acutely aware that the pitcher controls the action.

"Nothing's going to happen until I throw a pitch," he said. "The team relies on me to make good pitches. That's what I like, though. I can dictate the tempo of the game, basically."

A's right fielder Jermaine Dye has noticed what Mulder brings to his craft. "He's smart," Dye said. "He studies the game, studies the hitters and knows what to do and what not to do to them."

Mulder's also intelligent enough to know what people want to see Tuesday night when he faces Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa and the other National League power hitters.

"It's an All-Star Game. So I'm just going to go after them," Mulder said jovially. "Trust me, I'm not going to try to walk a single one of these guys, let's put it that way. If it happens, it happens. But I'm not going to try to."

Guerrero, Bonds were MVPs of baseball's first half

BY KEN DAVIDOFF

Newsday

Unless you're Jimmy Williams — at least Bob Brenly can blame the injuries — then this was a fine first half to the 2004 baseball season.

If you are the Houston Astros' manager (or now), then a) we'll never understand what it is you're rebelling against, and b) you blew it, buddy. See you very shortly on the unemployment line.

For everyone else, here are our reflections on what has happened, and a complete guess at what will happen.

American League Most Valuable Player: Vladimir Guerrero, Anaheim. With virtually all of his teammates getting hurt at some juncture, he is the primary reason the Angels are still around.

American League Least Valuable Player: Bret Boone, Seattle. Could it be that Aaron's brother is

still reeling from the negative reviews he received for his broadcasting in last year's AL Championship Series? (Probably not.)

National League Most Valuable Player: Barry Bonds, San Francisco. There are so many worthy candidates (Jim Thome, Scott Rolen, Albert Pujols), but only one superhuman.

National League Least Valuable Player: We see no completely healthy busts, so we reluctantly give the honor to an injury-prone quartet: Atlanta's Chipper Jones, Arizona's Richie Sexson and Colorado's Larry Walker and Preston Wilson.

American League Cy Young Award: Curt Schilling, Boston. For all of the headaches he causes, he delivers. Short term, in a vacuum, he has been far better than the Yankees' Javier Vazquez.

American League Sean Young Award (for worst pitcher): Sidney Ponson, Baltimore. On the

Analysis

bright side, only another 2½ years and the Orioles are done with him.

National League Cy Young Award: Jason Schmidt, San Francisco. He gets lost in the NL's senior citizen brigade, has a far less sexy name than Roger Clemens, Randy Johnson or Tim Lincecum. But he is better than the old folks.

National League Sean Young Award: Kevin Millwood, Philadelphia. "5.15" is a fine song by The Who. "5.15" is a very poor ERA, especially in the pitcher-friendly NL.

American League Manager of the Year: Lou Piniella, Tampa Bay. Compare the Devil Rays' roster to the Blue Jays and Orioles, and we dare you to tell us that the Rays are better on paper.

American League Misanthrope

of the Year: Carlos Tosca, Toronto. This club is too good to be this bad.

National League Manager of the Year: Tony La Russa, St. Louis. The best record in the league, with Matt Morris and Woody Williams the weak links in the starting rotation? La Russa is a Hall of Famer.

National League Misanthrope of the Year: Williams. If he had directed "The Producers," he would have put Matthew Broderick in the showy fat guy role and made Nathan Lane the wimpy accountant.

American League Rookie of the Year: Lew Ford, Minnesota. He's putting together a nice season as the Twins hold their own against the more imposing White Sox.

National League Rookie of the Year: Kaz Matsui, Mets. Just kidding. For now, it's Pittsburgh's Jason Bay. But keep an eye on Rockies leadoff man Aaron Miles.

Best story: The surge of so many teams — the Devil Rays, Tigers, Rangers, Mets, Brewers or Reds, for starters.

Worst story: The botched "Spider-Man 2" promotion. This debacle made everyone at Major League Baseball look foolish.

Second-best story: That "Spider-Man 2" is setting the stage for another curse-filled postseason.

Second-half psychic: Randy Johnson will be traded to the Angels, promptly traded to the Mariners to order an exchange of Kenny Lofton for Millwood. ... The Cubs and Red Sox will get the Mar. 25 series, the worst stage for another curse-filled postseason. ... The Athletics will make the playoffs and lose in the first round again. ... Larry Bowa will finally be canned after his Phillies finish behind the Braves in the NL East. ... The Mets will go 81-81, prompting Art Howe to observe, "We won half of our battles." ... The Yankees will lose the World Series to the Cubs.

Tejada wins one for the little guys

Muscle-bound sluggers bested by O's shortstop in Home Run Derby

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Miguel Tejada didn't seem to fit in. Hank Aaron, Barry Bonds, Willie Mays — and him?

"Shivers," he recalled. "Just being so close to those guys, it's unbelievable."

Bonds hit the early drives — after a humorous call for the national intentional walk — and Tejada then flashed even more power than the slugger who usually gets the attention.

The Baltimore shortstop hit a record 15 home runs in the second round, topping out at 497 feet and putting several over the 58-foot wall behind the left field seats, toward Crawford Street. He went on to defeat hometown favorite Lance Berkman 5-4 in the final with five of 10 outs to spare.

"Oh my gosh, I'm winning the Home Run Derby," Tejada thought to himself. "I usually watch it from my house, usually watch it on TV."

Five of Berkman's 10 homers in the second round were dramatic shots out of the ballpark, including a 493-foot drive.

"After I hit three in a row out of the stadium, I thought that was really nice. The fans were going crazy," Berkman said. "I got in a nice groove. The second round was quite an experience. I ran out of gas."

Both finalists batted right-handed and replaced left-handers who pulled out, with Tejada taking over from Jason Giambi and Berkman, a switch-hitter, getting the call after Ken Griffey Jr. got hurt last weekend. The big wall in left, which has a replica 1860 locomotive that runs across it, provides a perfect panorama for right-handed hitters.

When he took his first swing, Tejada was hoping to hit just one homer.

"Miggy, you're not going to win," he recalled thinking. "There's so many home run hitters."

Bonds did get pitched to, hitting eight homers with the roof closed in the first round, one a 483-foot shot over the top row of seats in the right-field upper deck. But he had just three in the second, when the panels pulled back to reveal the night sky, and the humidity rolled in.

Before the competition, the 14



Baltimore Orioles' Miguel Tejada watches the flight of one of his record 15 home runs in the second round of the All-Star Home Run Derby in Houston on Monday. Tejada defeated Lance Berkman in the final round.

living players among the 20 with 500 or more homers came together to swap stories, pose for photos and project what the future will bring to the long ball. If the ball has been juiced in recent years, this was the appropriate setting for such a gathering — Minute Maid Park.

Adding it all up, the gathering

totalled 8,083 homers; 10 of the top 11 sluggers in baseball history, all but the deceased Sultan of Swat, Babe Ruth.

Aaron, the only man to top Ruth's 714, predicted Bonds (currently at 681) will surpass his mark.

"It won't bother me a bit," Hammerman Hank said.

MLB scoreboard

American League

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	55	31	.640	
Boston	48	38	.558	7
Tampa Bay	42	45	.483	13½
Toronto	39	49	.443	17
Baltimore	37	48	.435	17½
Central Division				
Chicago	46	38	.548	
Minnesota	47	40	.540	½
Cleveland	40	45	.483	5½
Detroit	42	45	.483	5½
Kansas City	31	54	.365	15½
West Division				
Texas	49	37	.570	
Oakland	47	38	.547	2
Anaheim	47	40	.540	2½
Seattle	32	54	.372	17½

Monday's games

No games scheduled				
Tuesday's game				
All-Star Game at Houston				
Wednesday's games				
No games scheduled				
Thursday's games				
W	L	Pct	GB	
N.Y. Yankees	at Detroit	49	40	.551 1 1/2
Baltimore	at Tampa Bay	42	48	.468 13 1/2
Minnesota	at Kansas City	40	48	.458 3 1/2
Cleveland	at Seattle	46	40	.538 1 1/2
Boston	at Anaheim	42	48	.468 13 1/2
Chicago White Sox	at Oakland	40	48	.458 3 1/2

National League

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	46	41	.529	
Atlanta	45	42	.517	1
Florida	45	43	.511	1 1/2
New York	44	43	.506	2
Montreal	31	56	.356	15
Central Division				
St. Louis	54	33	.621	
Chicago	47	40	.540	7
Cincinnati	47	41	.534	7 1/2
Milwaukee	45	41	.523	8
Houston	44	44	.500	10 1/2
Pittsburgh	39	47	.453	14 1/2
West Division				
Los Angeles	48	38	.558	
San Francisco	49	40	.551	1 1/2
San Diego	41	41	.534	2 1/2
Colorado	36	51	.414	12 1/2

Monday's game

No games scheduled
Tuesday's game
All-Star Game at Houston
Wednesday's games
No games scheduled
Thursday's games
Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets
St. Louis at Cincinnati
Montreal at Atlanta
Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs
San Francisco at Colorado
Los Angeles at Arizona

Big Unit open to trade to contender

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Randy Johnson would consider waiving his no-trade clause if Arizona Diamondbacks want to deal him to a contender.

After deflecting inquiries about a deal for 30 minutes during the National League All-Star player availability Monday, the Big Unit finally answered the big question.

"I haven't been approached by the Diamondbacks yet to waive my no-trade clause," he said. "The only way I would probably want to leave would be that I'm benefiting the Diamondbacks in leaving. I think I'd be doing that because they wouldn't have to pay my salary — it could go toward helping somewhere else."

Johnson, a five-time Cy Young Award winner, said the last-place Diamondbacks also would be benefited from "the players they get in return."

In Boston, the New York Yankees appear to be the most likely candidates for a deal with the Diamondbacks, a major league worst 31-58 at the All-Star break, 18 1/2 games behind NL West-leading Los Angeles.

"Obviously, it would have to be a situation as such that it's going to work for me. That's the only way," Johnson said. "I'm not going to leave to go somewhere else to theoretically have a



Johnson

chance to win. It's going to have to be somewhere that... teams that have a chance to win, that's the only way."

Johnson, asked what his thoughts were about his memories of trips to Boston's North End, joked about it.

"I was really torn between the Boston clam chowder and the Manhattan clam chowder," he said.

Arizona has refused to say whether it plans to deal Johnson. The deadline to make deals without waivers is July 31.

"I don't have any comment at all at this time," Diamondbacks owner Jerry Colangelo said Monday.

Johnson, co-MVP of Arizona's seven-game World Series victory over the Yankees in 2001, said his goal was to get back to the World Series.

"That's why we all play," he said.

The 40-year-old left-hander, who pitched a perfect game at Atlanta on May 18, is making \$16 million this season and is due \$16 million in 2005, the final year of

his deal. He said he does not want a new contract as part of waving his rights to block a trade.

"Reading that I want an extension, that's the only way that I would accept a trade, is absolutely incorrect," he said. "Saying that I would be willing to go to Anaheim because I've got a house there 20 minutes [from the ballpark] is absolutely incorrect."

Johnson, 10-7 with a 2.99 ERA and a major league-leading 145 strikeouts, repeatedly said he was irritated by the public discussion of a possible trade.

"I live in Arizona. I like it in Arizona. My children go to school in Arizona," he said.

"How about, 'I don't want to leave Arizona'?" he was asked.

"I don't know if I could say that," he said.

Former Diamondbacks teammate Curt Schilling, Johnson's World Series co-MVP, wouldn't say whether he's lobbying Johnson to go to Boston. Schilling talks frequently with Johnson and their families planned to spend time together in Houston.

Yankees players have made clear they want Johnson in the Bronx.

New York's payroll would approach \$200 million if it acquires Johnson.

"The only issue is Bernie [Williams] is number 51," Alex Rodriguez said, jokingly. "There's no question he would be welcomed."

Manager Williams on hot seat in Houston

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Carlos Beltran left a team that was 15 1/2 games out of first place for one that believed he was the missing piece for its last-ditch effort to get to the World Series.

Turns out Beltran might be no closer to the postseason in Houston than he was in Kansas City.

"I can't believe it," Beltran said Monday at an All-Star Game news conference. "It's like nothing is going our way. We need to start moving in the division because time is running out. We need to change the way we play the game."

Left unsaid was whether those changes need to start with manager Jimmy Williams.

Speculation about Williams' job security intensified Monday, a day after the Astros lost their sixth game in eight days to finish the first half of the season in fifth place in the NL Central. The Astros are 10 1/2 games behind division leader St. Louis — the first time they've faced a double-digit deficit in the standings at the break in 11 seasons.

That's a remarkable disappointment for a team that was a pre-season favorite to go to the World Series and led the division for the first month and a half of the season. The All-Star break couldn't have come at a better time for slumping team, or a worse one for a manager on the hot seat.

"Maybe what this club needs is a little break," said Williams, who is one of the NL All-Star Game's coaches. "No, we're not getting the results that we want. We know that. We know where we are and what we have to do. Maybe we can get this thing turned around."

Astros owner Drayton McLane and General Manager Gerry Hunsicker have publicly expressed support for the embattled manager, but their patience may be wearing as the Astros' chances of catching the Cardinals slowly slip away.

Williams has guided the Astros to two second-place finishes, losing the division race last season in the final week. Much more was expected this season with the free-agent signings of former New York Yankees teammates Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte.

Houston has failed to deliver thus far.

"It's been very disappointing," Astros first baseman Jeff Bagwell said. "Obviously, we thought we'd be playing a lot better at this point than we are right now."

The Astros have been surprisingly punchless on offense, ranking 19th in the major leagues. Their highly touted pitching staff has struggled as both Andy Pettitte and Wade Miller have spent time on the disabled list.

And Beltran hasn't been the quick fix they expected — the All-Star center fielder is hitting .263.

advertising supplement to the Stars and Stripes

New commissary newsletter keeps customers connected to their benefit

By Bonnie Powell
bonnie.powell@deca.mil

FORT LEE, Va. — Staying connected to your commissary benefit is now just a click away. Commissary Connection, a customer newsletter delivered via e-mail. Shoppers can sign up now at www.commissaries.com.

Commissaries may carry "Spam" on store shelves, but DeCA officials have no intention of delivering it through e-mail. "Commissary Connection will be a fairly informal newsletter," said Kaye Kennedy, chief of corporate communications for the Defense Commissary Agency.

"We send it out only when we have significant news to communicate to customers," said Kennedy. "We already work with military newspapers, television, radio and various military news services to get the word out to customers. Commissary news is also available on our Web site, and many commissaries have a store newsletter they send out locally. Commissary

Connection is simply another tool to proactively communicate with customers and keep them informed of 'what's happening' in commissaries."

Commissary Connection keeps customers abreast of news about promotions and sales — even offering links to manufacturer and vendor sites where they can enter shopping sprees and contests, or sign up for commercial newsletters.

The newsletter is delivered from CommissaryConnection@deca.mil and sign up is through a link on the front page of <http://www.commissaries.com>. Shoppers are not required to give any personal information when they sign up. "All people have to do to subscribe is give us an e-mail address," said Kennedy.

"We take privacy issues very seriously and we don't collect information on our customers. We also wanted to keep the process simple." Subscribers will receive a welcoming e-mail when they sign up.

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*Coupons are available via take one pads in store while supplies last.

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Right - Col Bill Uhle, Commander, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan ROK, was the first customer through the line when the new Kunsan AB Commissary opened on June 16. Col Uhle bought a six pack of seven up and a can of deluxe, mixed nuts. Second in line is SrA Justin Oakley, Airman of the Quarter, with a box of frosted mini-wheats.

Above - Mr. Allen Chin, Chief of Construction, Plans & Programs, US Army Corps of Engineers; Rick Page, Director, DeCA West; Patrick Nixon, Deputy Director, DeCA; Woo Song, Store Director, Kunsan Commissary; SrA Justin Oakley, Kunsan Airman of the Quarter; Col Bill Uhle, Commander, 8th Fighter Wing; Mr. Joon Han Kim, President, Shinsuengye Construction Co.; Col Lisa Belue, Commander, 8th Mission Support Group cut the ribbon at the long anticipated grand opening.



SPORTS

Troon links the majors

Course akin to Shinnecock Hills features punishing bunkers, wind on a track dominated by Americans

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

TROON, Scotland — First, a U.S. Open that looked like it belonged in Britain. Next up is a British Open played on a true links that has been dominated by Americans.

About the only thing that makes sense in this unusual year for major championships is the caliber of players winning them, which signals the most parity at the top since Tiger Woods first began to dominate golf.

Nine players have won the past nine majors going into the 133rd British Open at Royal Troon, which includes six of the top 10 players in the world ranking. Missing from that group is Vijay Singh, whom many believe has been the best player over the past 18 months.

Phil Mickelson finally captured his first major with a brilliant back nine at Augusta National and an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole to win the Masters. He almost won the U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills, too, until he was done in by a three-putt from 5 feet on the 71st hole that left him two shots behind Retief Goosen.

As for Woods? He has been closer to the cut line than contention in the first two majors, extending his drought to 0-for-8 in the Grand Slam events and maintaining the party line that his game is close — close to what, no one is quite sure.

"Golf is waiting for someone to step out and take charge other than Tiger," Tom Lehman said. "There is a number of guys who have been there a lot, yet no one has gone out and taken it."

Mickelson wasn't sure if the parity is greater than it has been in a while, saying it was a tough question to answer.

"But it's fun that we can ask it," he

added.

Some answers might be available this week at Royal Troon, the second of three consecutive majors being played on links-styled courses. The PGA Championship is at Whistling Straits in Wisconsin.

Some players might wonder if they ever left Shinnecock Hills last month.

Both courses have troublesome bunkers lining the fairways and protecting the green. Both have fairways framed by brownish natural grasses that look like miniature wheat fields. The most dangerous hole on both courses is also the shortest —

a par 3, which at Royal Troon is the famous "Postage Stamp" hole measuring 123 yards.

The good news for the players? The U.S. Golf Association is only in town as a guest.

Mickelson played a practice round at Royal Troon a week before the British Open and declared it to be in sensational shape and a tough, but fair, test of golf.

"But then again, so did Shinnecock the week before," he said.

The USGA was so determined to protect par at the U.S. Open that it stopped watering the greens. On an overcooked course, no one broke par in the final round and 28 players failed to break 80.

Despite heavy rain in recent weeks, the rough is not awful at Royal Troon and the fairways and greens are lushier than usual for a British Open. The Royal & Ancient prefers to let wind — the strongest defense on any links — dictate scoring, and it doesn't lose sleep if the winning score resembles the John Deere Classic.

"It's not as tricked up as the other three majors, and I think the players realize that," Davis Love III said.

SEE TROON ON PAGE 32



Australia's McEwen wins his second stage of the Tour; Armstrong finishes in main pack, Page 31

Towering Tejada



Orioles shortstop Miguel Tejada celebrates winning the All-Star Home Run Derby in Houston on Monday. He hit a record 15 home runs in the second round and beat the Astros' Lance Berkman in the finals with five outs to spare. See story on Page 34.



Jones plummets to seventh, still advances to finals in long jump with shot to earn Olympic berth in the event

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Peirsol hands Phelps first loss of swim trials, winning 200 backstroke and breaking his own world record



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